

Gunfight warning before WPC was shot, inquest told

By Michael Horsnell

One hour before the murder of 'Woman' Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher last month police were given an extraordinary warning of a gun fight expected at the Libyan People's Bureau in London.

This was disclosed yesterday at the resumed inquest into the death of Miss Fletcher, aged 25, when it also emerged that two guns were almost certainly fired from the first floor of the building in St James's Square.

Police who have already said that Libyan diplomats suspected of Miss Fletcher's murder have been narrowed to two, have failed to identify the officer who received the warning and apparently took no action.

It came from Mr John Sullivan, a labourer, who was employed to erect crash barriers at the scene of the proposed anti-Gaddafi demonstration on April 17.

Mr Sullivan told the inquest at Westminster coroner's court, where the jury watched two video recordings of the demonstration in which Miss Fletcher was seen writhing from her wounds, that embassy staff had repeatedly tried to prevent him from erecting the barriers. A member of the staff, whom he asked on the embassy steps to move a car out of the way, told him the Libyans did not want the barriers erected.

Mr Sullivan said: "He kept repeating 'take them away'. He was getting annoyed. A few of them came out saying they didn't want them. There were possibly about six of them."

Mr Sullivan telephoned his supervisor who told him they had to be erected, but when he returned he found a group of Libyans had removed some and were guarding the bureau.

A small man from the bureau, he said, told him: "I am not taking responsibility for you or these things because we have guns here and there's going to be fighting here today."

Mr Sullivan added: "My recollection of this is quite clear. I thought it was a wind-up to be honest with you."

At that stage he simply reported to police the Libyan obstruction and drove to his work place to collect some clamps, returning with his supervisor to whom he mentioned the warning of a gun fight.

Later police stepped in when a Libyan refused to move out of his way and an officer who had given the man six opportunities to move arrested him for obstruction despite his protest that he was a diplomat. There was a scuffle and he was taken away. A second diplomat was arrested shortly afterwards.

"When they arrested the two gentlemen I turned round and said to my governor, 'I wonder if they have got any guns in there'."

It was at this point that the supervisor told a member of the Diplomatic Protection Group of the warning that had been given. The time was 9.20 am - exactly one hour before Miss Fletcher fell in a hail of automatic gunfire.

Commander William Hucksley of Scotland Yard's



Belgian police arresting a Tottenham supporter outside the Anderlecht stadium.

Fights in Brussels as Spurs fan dies

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The reputation of British football supporters for violence arrived in Belgium before them yesterday, and a young Tottenham Hotspur follower died in Brussels' red light district when a row broke out in a bar over the size of a bill for drinks.

The supporter, Mr Brian Flanagan, aged 18, from Finsbury Park, north London, was one of a group who had come a day early to watch last night's Europa Cup final first leg between Tottenham and Anderlecht.

The public prosecutor's office said that the bar owner, M. Albert Neveken, aged 32 had confessed to shooting Mr Flanagan and had been charged with manslaughter.

Riot police were called in last night before the match started as trouble broke out. Two policemen were taken to hospital for treatment to stab wounds received in scuffles involving English supporters and 11 arrests were made.

About 40 English youths were taken into custody after a brothel had been vandalized near the Gare du Nord.

The shooting happened in the sleazy area behind the station. Brussels barmen had been waiting anxiously for the match for the past week. Newspapers have been carrying stories warning that Tottenham



Mr Brian Flanagan: Died in a Brussels bar.

supporters are pirates or animals. Fearing the worst many cafe owners have been laying in plastic glasses, taking down pavement parasols and clearing away anything which might be used as a weapon when the estimated 8,000 supporters arrived.

Mr Flanagan's father, Mr Frank Flanagan, a publican said: "It is a complete tragedy for anybody's son to get shot. I do not know the circumstances but I know he would not have been involved in trouble."

His employer at a local computer company, Mr Umaid Jaffi, said: "He was certainly not a hooligan, quite the opposite - a very clean-cut and decent guy."

Still a chance that Moscow will attend the Olympics

From Richard Owen, Moscow

As two senior Olympic officials prepare to fly to Moscow for talks, there is growing evidence that although the Russians might still attend the Los Angeles Games, their decision to stay away is a political act aimed at President Reagan.

Senior Mario Vasquez Rana of Mexico, head of the Association of National Olympic Committees, is to hold talks in Moscow this weekend to persuade the Russians to "heed the Olympic spirit" and attend. His mission is supported by Senior Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee.

On Tuesday night the Soviet Olympic Committee shocked the world by announcing that Russia had decided not to attend the Los Angeles Games in July. A statement said "violation of the Olympic charter" by the United States and an anti-Soviet campaign by "reactionary circles" had created unbearable conditions which made Soviet participation impossible.

Soviet officials were at pains yesterday however to draw a distinction between a "boycott" and a decision not to attend on the grounds that circumstances made it impossible to do so.

"The implication is that if circumstances made it possible to go the Russians would change their minds," one Western diplomat commented.

Sources said that if the US

gave assurances that Soviet complaints would be met in the next three weeks, Moscow would be able to win medals at Los Angeles while at the same time drawing maximum propaganda advantage from Soviet allegations that the teams have

been mis-managed and over-commercialized and are being used by Washington for political purposes.

Informed sources said a meeting of Soviet bloc Central Committee officials had been held on April 5, in Moscow to discuss "the development of the international Olympic movement."

This meant a joint Soviet bloc strategy toward the games, including the possibility of a Communist "Spartakiad" as an alternative. Tuesday's statement by the Soviet Olympic Committee said the US had flouted Olympic ideals and traditions but that Russia would preserve the Olympic movement's "purity and unity."

Diplomats said yesterday it was doubtful the Reagan Administration could meet the latest Soviet objections, which

Top Reagan economist resigns

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr Martin Feldstein, chairman of the United States Council of Economic Advisers, abruptly resigned yesterday amid reports of growing dissent among President Reagan's economic team.

In a brief statement to reporters, Mr Feldstein said he had notified the President by letter that he planned to return to his teaching position at Harvard University on July 10.

Although he had been expected to return to Harvard in the autumn, the timing of the announcement took officials in Washington by surprise and led to speculation about a new rift within the Administration over the direction of policy in the wake of the new rise in US interest rates.

Mr Feldstein gave no hint of the reported rift in his letter, but thanked Mr Reagan for the opportunity to serve on the council and explained that he needed time to prepare for his courses at Harvard.

Mr Feldstein said the timing of his departure was of his own choosing. He indicated it had nothing to do with his repeated clashes with other administration officials - notably Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary - over the big US budget deficits which he blamed for rising interest rates.

But privately in conversations with officials on Capitol Hill and elsewhere, Mr Feldstein indicated that he was deeply concerned by the failure of Mr Reagan and top White House officials to consult him before releasing a statement blaming the US central bank for the high White House announcement on Tuesday by Mr Larry Speakes, the chief spokesman was carefully worded and criticized the central bank - the US Federal Reserve Board - for failing to supply enough money to meet the needs of the growing US economy.

The statement was regarded as an attempt by the Administration to limit the political damage caused by the new rise in interest rates.

When the White House released Mr Feldstein's letter, Mr Speakes played down reports of a rift, saying the resignation was routine and expected.

Coal strike Miners 'flocking for redundancy'

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

By today more than 7,000 miners will have used the National Coal Board's telephone answering service to inquire about new redundancy terms introduced on April 1.

Some coal board areas reported yesterday that they had been swamped with calls and that pitmen were complaining the service was continually engaged.

In Yorkshire, where the strike against pit closures started nearly 2,000 of the area's 55,000 miners will have requested information today. In South Wales about 1,000 out of 20,000 will have rung in. The scheme has been most successful in the North-east, where 2,100 out of 22,000 pitmen have used the service. The figures for the other areas are:

Scotland, 1,000 out of 13,000; Midlands, 700 out of 51,000; Western 545 out of 18,500.

The coal board wants to reduce its 179,500 manpower by 20,000 during 1984 and 1985. Some of these will already have gone and other redundancy applications are being processed.

A coal board spokesman said yesterday: "It all tends to add weight to our conviction that the pruning of capacity and manpower can be conducted without the need for compulsory redundancies."

The new redundancy scheme offers £1,000 per year of service for men aged between 21 and 49. The maximum severance payment over the age of 55 is £24,000 followed by weekly payments.

Scargill to step up pressure on pits

By Paul Routledge and David Felton

Miners' leaders will decide today on new measures to intensify their nine-week-old "rolling strike", which halted output at six more pits yesterday.

The executive committee of the National Union of Mine-workers meets to assess the impact of the stoppage and there are few signs of a break in the miners' ranks.

The Government yesterday made clear its determination to sit out the strike and announced that coal stocks are sufficient to last well into the autumn.

As thousands of trade unionists in Scotland staged a 24-hour strike in support of the miners, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, spoke of the "exceedingly high" stocks which would allow electricity generation to be unaffected for much more than six months.

In Scotland rail and bus services were disrupted, shipyards on the lower Clyde came to a standstill when 2,000 workers at the Faslane Polar submarine base also stopped work. The convoys of lorries continued to take coal into the Ravenscraig steelworks, where there was only a handful of pickets.

Labour backs the left

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The growing strength of the Labour Party's militant left in Liverpool and Manchester, and its unbending resistance to government expenditure restraints, was recognized in two key decisions by the national leadership yesterday.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, and his colleagues on the national executive committee voted by 12 votes to five to reinstate to the Manchester City Council Labour group 25 left-wing councillors expelled last year after refusing to go along with the group's decision to implement government cuts.

The NEC also gave its strongest backing so far to the stand made by the Liverpool Labour group, whose majority was increased to 17 in last Thursday's elections, against expenditure reductions on staff and services.

Although a motion passed by the NEC fell short of giving endorsement to the group's plans to declare an illegal rate, it was a significant victory.

Banks out of step in rate rise

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The cost of borrowing went up yesterday as the banks raised base lending rates to 9 or 9.25 per cent in response to market pressure and rising rates in the US.

But nervous financial markets were unconvinced whether the move would be enough and there was talk yesterday that rates might go still higher.

Further gains in US rates and the dollar could leave the pound vulnerable because of the big gap between US and British interest rates.

In volatile currency markets yesterday, the pound fell close to its all-time low of \$1.3775 against the dollar, but a late fall in the dollar left the pound up 63 points at \$1.39 exactly at the London close and unchanged at 80.0 against a basket of currencies. However it slipped back later in New York as the dollar began to rise again.

The City confusion was reflected in differing rates among the clearing banks. National Westminster and Lloyds lifted base rates by 0.5 to 9 per cent, felt this was not enough and moved to 9.25 per cent, followed by Midland and some others which pushed through a 0.75 per cent point increase to 9.25 per cent.

The banks were also split on 7-day deposit rates with some offering 6 per cent and some 5.75 per cent.

There is no immediate threat to building society mortgage rates, now at 10.25 per cent, unless rates continue to rise. Although new mortgage lending is thought to have hit an all-time record of more than £2 billion last month, the societies took in about £700m and have ample liquidity.

Kenneth Fleet, page 19
Market Report, page 20

Teenagers challenge America's best

By Pearce Wright

Two British 17-year-olds are challenging the scientific cream of American youth this week, providing answers for the golfer and those who worry how insects climb up the window.

Richard Mackman, a student from Garforth Comprehensive School, who lives in Leeds, and Anne Constable from Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, who attends Queen Anne's School in Reading, are the British entrants in the competition to find the young winners of the year at the International

Science and Engineering Fair in Columbus, Ohio. They face 600 keen Americans.

Richard Mackman has come up with a solution to the two problems which dominate the minds of golfers who want to improve their swings: how to see how well they hit their strokes and how to avoid trekking to the other end of the range to pick up the ball.

As always in the modern world, the system uses a microcomputer. The golfer drives off as normal and the ball almost immediately hits a metal plate a short distance ahead of the tee. This plate is connected to the computer which instantly works out the power of the stroke, the angle at which the ball was hit and the distance it would have travelled.

Anne Constable is more at home with cockroaches than computers. She has used everyone's least favourite restaurant guest to answer one of the oldest questions of animal behaviour: how do insects climb up shiny, smooth vertical surfaces? There has been no

shortage of theories.

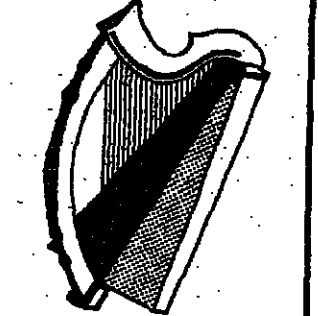
All have been rejected in favour of the insect producing its own special adhesive which enables it to stick to the wall. She proved this theory by turning the cockroaches loose on smoked glass and a special powder.

The British entrants were chosen for the competition, which started yesterday, by the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Their trip has been sponsored by the Westinghouse Electric Company.

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Lost cause
Friday Page looks at the law and "family kidnapping"

The real thing
Rock, classical or folk? Spectrum tries to pin down the Chieftains



Stone ground
Philip Howard puts the cathedrals in their place
Over and over
Reports of all the county championship cricket matches

MP objects to Abbey protocol

The Opposition Chief Whip, Mr Michael Cocks, walked out of a service at Westminster Abbey yesterday, Mr Cocks, attending the start of Christian Heritage Year as the Labour leader's official representative, objected that he was not accorded the same protocol as the Prime Minister.

Runcie warning, page 4

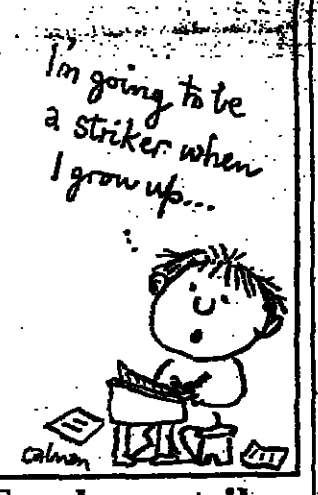
Legal adverts

Solicitors should be allowed to advertise their charges, a working party of the Law Society urges, signalling a shift of attitude in the profession Page 3

Editor may quit

The future of Sir Larry Lamb, editor of the Daily Express, was in doubt after pressure from a printing union for a reply to a feature concerning Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader

Back page



Teachers strike

More than half of Britain's nine million pupils went without lessons as the National Union of Teachers staged a pay strike

Page 2

Bomb death

A booby-trap bomb killed a Territorial Army soldier and injured two others at Newry, co Down, yesterday

Jones go-ahead

Colin Jones, the British welterweight boxer, has been allowed to carry on competing after being suspended because of suspected short-sightedness

Page 24

Debt 'cap' plan

A meeting of central bankers in New York has proposed a "cap" on interest charges for Third World debt

Page 19

Leader page, 13

Letters: On Ireland, from Mr G C Griffith, and others; industry, from Dr A B Cramp; sporting standards from Mr E Grayson

Leading articles: Olympic Games; trade union ballots; torture in Turkey

Features, pages 10 & 12

Mitterrand's first three years: Britain's boost for the TV independents; why the Alliance should face up to the hard option; Spectrum: a profile of Ferdinand Marcos

Books, page 9

Fiona MacCarthy reviews Fay Weldon's book about reading Jane Austen; fiction of the week by Stuart Evans and Gay Firth; Brian Alderson on The Oxford Companion to Children's Literature

More than words, pages 15-17

The changing scene of voice, image and data transmissions; a three-page Special Report looks at communications

Classified, pages 26 to 30

La creme de la creme: careers horizons

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Call to curb top officials taking jobs in business

By Peter Hennessy

Sir Patrick Nairne, Master of St Catherine's College, Oxford, and former Permanent Secretary to the Department of Health and Social Security, called last night for more rigorous rules on the acceptance of business appointments by former top civil servants.

He told the all-party Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee there should be a five-year bar on a former civil servant taking a job with a company with which he had had direct contractual dealings as an official. The present period is two years.

Sir Patrick said that he would never have considered taking a post with a drug, medical equipment, or tobacco company. The integrity of the Civil Service was so important that it was "right to bend over backwards" in terms of the strictness with which the rules were applied.

Neddy on point of collapse

The National Economic Development Council, which brings together unions, employers, and the Government for top-level talks on the economy, is on the verge of collapse (our Labour Editor writes).

Trade union leaders decided yesterday to continue at least until September their boycott of the only forum which brings them into direct contact with Cabinet ministers.

Meetings of Neddy, which normally take place monthly, are going into suspension after the June gathering, union leaders were told at a meeting of the TUC economic committee. It seems unlikely that the council will survive in its present form.

The union boycott was imposed four months ago in retaliation for the banning of unions at GCHQ.

'Terrible' kick by PC, jury told

A man who took part in a demonstration last July outside Walton prison Liverpool, told a jury yesterday that he saw a policeman deliver a "terrible and violent" kick to a man's face.

A member of the Free Dennis Kelly campaign, Mr David Barton, of Radcliffe Walk, Everton, Liverpool, told Preston Crown Court that he saw Mr Michael O'Brien crouched on the ground. "I saw the constable throw a kick into his face," he said.

Police Constable Karl Kneale, aged 23, of Tynville Road, Walton, Liverpool, denies assault causing actual bodily harm.

The trial was adjourned.

Prince starts power station

The Prince of Wales opened Europe's largest pump storage power station yesterday. It had taken 10 years and £450m to build. Six huge turbines deep inside Elyddir Mountain in Snowdonia began to hum and electricity output throughout Britain surged.

Sir Walter Marshall, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, was the host for more than 400 guests at the ceremony inside the mountain.

Metro deal

A strike at the Austin Rover plant at Longbridge, Birmingham, ended yesterday after 10 days under a settlement which will entail the recruitment of 100 extra workers and a 23 per cent increase in Metro production.

Economic growth not threatened by interest rate rise, Lawson says

From Ronald Faux

The economic recovery was in no way threatened by the rise in interest rates, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, told the Scottish Conservative Conference in Perth yesterday.

He said the increase was an "unwelcome interruption" to the downward trend of recent years but, given the Government's determination to maintain firm controls on monetary conditions and thus on inflation, interest rates were bound to fluctuate.

Mr Lawson added that although the interest rates had been successfully kept below those of the United States, Britain could not be wholly immune from upward pressures generated across the Atlantic. He said the question of interest rates would no doubt be discussed during the London economic summit next month.

His call to the Scottish Tories, still bruised by the party's performance in the Scottish local council elections last week, was for unwavering support for the Government's economic policies which, he said, put Britain last year at the top of the EEC league for economic growth. Not since the 1960s had the country enjoyed simultaneous steady growth and low inflation.

Jobs remained an area of acute concern but the Chancellor saw some hopeful signs with

the number of people in work increasing again after falling steadily for years. He said that although economic prospects were better than they had been for a very long time, that did not mean Britain was in the clear.

He singled out the failure to control government spending over many years as most damaging to the economy and said it was of the "very first importance" that it should be held at present levels.

As the Chancellor spoke, several Scottish cities were targets for the Scottish TUC's Day of Action in support of the miners' strike.

Mr Lawson said: "We would do well to remember just how much subsidies are costing us. Getting on for £2,000m to the coal industry and the railways". Mr Lawson said no one sought to disguise the problems of bringing long-established nationalised industries to a position at which they could stand on their own feet.

● Sir Henry Plumb, the leader of the Conservative group in the European parliament, said yesterday that, because of its strong commitment to Europe, the Conservative Party was better placed than its Labour and SDP/Liberal Alliance opponents realistically and effectively to promote British interests within the EEC (David Cross writes).

Pit events since miners elected Scargill

Dec 81: Arthur Scargill elected president of the National Union of Mineworkers with 70.3 per cent vote.

Jan 82: NUM ballot vote goes 55.45 per cent against call for strike over 9.5 per cent pay offer.

Oct 82: Further ballot re-acts strike over 7.5 per cent offer and pit closures by 61.39 per cent.

1983

Mar 1: S Wales miners strike over closure of Tynmawr Lewis Merthyr colliery.

Mar 8: Miners vote in ballot 61.39 per cent against national strike call over Welsh closure.

June 18: NCB announces 65,000 jobs to disappear in next 5 years.

July 7: NUM conference votes for pithead ballot on national strike if closure programme implemented.

Sep 1: Ian MacGregor takes over as NUM chairman.

Oct 1: NCB makes 5.2 per cent "last word" offer and calls for quickening of closure programme.

Oct 22: Special NUM conference calls overtime ban over pay and closure.

Nov 1: Overtime ban starts.

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Mar 17: Moderate areas record ballot votes against joining strike.

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Mar 21: 80 per cent of coalfields brought to a standstill.

April 5: Ballot of Nottinghamshire miners goes 5.1 against leaders' advice to join strike.

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Law Society may allow solicitors to advertise their charges

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Unrestricted advertising by solicitors, provided it does not bring the profession into "disrepute", has been urged by a working party of the Law Society.

The proposals, which for the first time envisage solicitors advertising their charges, indicate a complete shift in attitude on the part of the profession, which has always opposed more than very limited advertising.

They have been published as a draft statement to go before the society's council in June, in recognition that the profession "should not wait for the challenge from licensed conveyancers but should be ready to meet it now".

The Law Society has been under increasing pressure to let solicitors advertise. Announcing proposals to end the solicitors' conveyancing monopoly, the government said in February that it wanted the profession to consider allowing advertising of conveyancing prices.

There has also been increasing frustration and anger among solicitors themselves, particularly younger ones, at restrictions preventing them from competing more effectively with the opposition posed by banks and building societies.

Yesterday, Mr David Tench, legal officer of the Consumers' Association, called the statement "a terrific turnabout". He said: "I rejoice in the Law Society's conversion to the wisdom of price advertising. Clearly the House Buyers Bill

concentrated the mind wonderfully."

The draft statement says that advertising must be "in good taste and not of such a character as may reasonably be regarded as likely to bring the profession into disrepute".

Solicitors are urged to consider whether advertising should be limited to particular media, such as press, radio, or television, and whether it should extend to notices on office premises and direct mailing.

If charges are advertised, it must be stated what services will be provided for those charges and in what circumstances they may be increased. Solicitors must not state that a fee is "upwards" of a certain figure and the advertisement of a total fee for a specific service must state whether it includes disbursements and value-added tax.

If house conveyancing is advertised, but not a charge, the advertisement must include a "sufficiently prominent statement" to the effect that if required a written estimate of cost will be given to the client.

A firm's advertising may refer to the quality of service provided by solicitors in general, but not to that provided by the particular firm, and should not suggest the firm is superior to other solicitors, nor criticize the services of other solicitors.

The statement coincides with the launching this week of a new combined directory of all barristers and solicitors in

England and Wales which for the first time allows them to give details of the particular work they specialize in. There will be 28 regional directories.

The directory, in line with a recommendation of the Royal Commission on Legal Services that the public should have better information about the profession, will be placed in libraries, citizens' advice bureaux, and town halls.

In November the Law Society agreed a relaxation of the restriction on advertising to allow small advertisements in local newspapers outlining solicitors' work, but price advertising was ruled out.

The new statement, published in yesterday's *Law Society Gazette*, is part of a package of consultative papers to be debated by local law society leaders on May 23. It covers such topics as property shops, a solicitors' building society, and non-solicitor conveyancers.

The papers come out firmly against the idea of a solicitors' building society. The battle with the Government over allowing banks and building societies to employ solicitors to do conveyancing is "far from lost", the Law Society says.

Mr Sandy McIlwain, president of the Law Society of Scotland, said its council had recently considered allowing advertising and opinion was overwhelmingly against it. The council was not persuaded there was any good argument for introducing it in Scotland.



Hopeful hurdler: Mr Eric Hunter who had a second heart transplant operation yesterday.

Second donor heart for fund-raiser

An insurance salesman who devoted much of time to raising funds for a heart charity after a transplant operation three years ago, was recovering at Papworth Hospital, near Cambridge, yesterday after having been given a second new heart (Our Science Correspondence writes).

Mr Eric Hunter, aged 37, saw his wife, Margaret, and Dawn, aged 14, one of his two daughters, after the seven-hour operation yesterday and was already out of bed watching television.

Mr Hunter, of Cottingley Crescent, Leeds, underwent his first transplant in

March, 1981, two years after a serious heart attack. Afterwards he took part in sponsored events including golfing, jogging, and cycling to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation and Papworth Hospital.

"This is my way of saying thank you to those who have given me a new lease of life", he said after the first operation.

A spokesman at Papworth, Mr John Edwards, said there had been a serious deterioration in Mr Hunter's health in recent weeks. "A second transplant was considered to be the only option."

Housebuyer 'should be told cost of fuel bills'

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The Government is to launch a campaign to give houses an energy efficiency rating before they are sold, so as to inform prospective buyers of the fuel bills they can expect to pay.

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, announcing the scheme yesterday, said that he wanted to ensure that estate agents and building societies publicized the standard of energy efficiency of each house.

He told a seminar in Manchester that he expected some very dramatic improvements to be made in energy efficiency during the next year.

One of the intentions of the campaign is that potential buyers would be allowed to see evidence of the previous year's fuel bills before committing themselves to purchase.

Mr Walker's advisers believe that measures to conserve and grade energy could save house-holders more than £1,000m in the next four years, and under the grading system scheme builders and sellers of houses and flats would obtain a building society or surveyor's grading certificate showing the degree of heat saving insulation built into the property on offer.

Anti-cancer drug under trial for leukaemia

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

One of the most powerful poisons known is being adapted by researchers as a possible treatment for some types of cancer.

Dr Philip Thorpe, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, said yesterday that the poison, Ricin, which is extracted from the castor bean, could be used to kill tumour cells while leaving normal cells unharmed.

Clinical trials of the treatment are beginning at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, as a result of work by Dr Thorpe and Professor Walter Ross, of the Institute of Cancer Research in London.

Bone marrow from patients with an aggressive form of leukaemia would be removed and a powerful combination of radiation and anti-cancer drugs administered. Any tumour cells found in the marrow would be destroyed using antibodies.

The poison was used in the so-called "umbrella killing" of a Bulgarian exile, Mr Georgi Markov, in London six years ago when he died after his leg was jabbed into his leg by an assassin.

Dartington Hall settles dispute with Blackshaw

From Our Correspondent, Torbay

The eviction proceedings against the former headmaster of Dartington Hall, Dr Lyn Blackshaw, were dropped yesterday when he agreed to vacate the headmaster's house in the school grounds within a month.

Dr Blackshaw also agreed to drop his counter-claim for wrongful dismissal against the trustees of the school.

In return, the trustees have agreed to waive repayment of an £8,000 loan made to Dr Blackshaw, aged 44, and his wife Beth, aged 37, when they

first moved to the school last year.

The agreement was reached at Torquay County Court which was scheduled to last three days. But after three hours of evidence and three adjournments solicitors for both sides interrupted the hearing to say they had come to a private agreement.

Dr Blackshaw resigned last September from his post after the publication of nude photographs of his wife in a national newspaper.

New call for laws on trade codes

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading, is increasingly the pressure on the Government to introduce a statutory duty to trade fairly. Such a move could give "teeth" to a score of trading codes of practice already set up in negotiation with the Office of Fair Trading.

Sir Gordon is also intensifying his campaign to take codes of practice into fresh areas.

He is campaigning for statutory powers, designed to tackle code of practice breaches.

In the motor trade, the Motor Agents' Association has been unable to enforce a new provision requiring dealers to display pre-sale information.

Sir Gordon's proposals for statutory powers could not only bring MAA members into line but would also allow action to be taken against non-MAA car dealers.

There have also been breaches of the Glass and Glazing Federation code of practice which lays down that members' advertising for double glazing and replacement windows must conform to the regulations of the Advertising Standards Authority.

The OFT fears that lack of an ultimate sanction could be leading to some traders to breach codes of practice.

Man 'heard screams from police cell'

Mr David Lee, a builder, aged 31, told a jury yesterday how a night out ended with his best friend being blinded for life, allegedly by a policeman.

Mr Lee told Southwark Crown Court in south London that he sat helpless in a police cell as he heard Mr Barry Cartell, his garage manager, cry out: "Why did you hit me? What have you done this for? I can't see. You've knocked my good eye out."

The builder told the court that police Constable Brian Renton, who allegedly hit Mr Cartell, aged 36, so hard that surgeons had to remove his eye, started an argument in a

restaurant they were eating in.

"We were with two friends and were all very jovial, having a good time and causing no one any bother. There were some off-duty policemen, including PC Renton, sitting at another table," he said.

Mr Lee of Gordon House Road, Kenilworth Town, north west London, told the court that one of the officers called his station. Four uniformed officers arrived to arrest them for being drunk and disorderly. He said that at Islington police station PC Renton pointed out Mr Cartell and said: "Do him last".

The case continues today.

Young mothers support paternity leave law

Most of Britain's young mothers think that their husbands should have a legal right to paternity leave, according to a national survey conducted by Gallup for the magazine *Parents*.

The poll indicated that 72 per cent of mothers with children under the age of two believe that the Government should legislate on the matter. More than half felt that their husbands should be able to have at least two weeks off work on the birth of a baby, and nearly 40

per cent would like a leave period of three weeks or more.

The research shows that 20 per cent of fathers are not allowed any time off. Of those who are, most have to take it as annual leave and 8 per cent as unpaid compassionate leave. Only 16 per cent get paid compassionate leave.

The magazine says that the annual cost of five days paternity leave would be about £100m. The Government says that it is not a matter for legislation.

Disclosure broke DHSS code

The Department of Health and Social Security office in Ipswich has admitted that it should not have disclosed confidential information about clients to the police investigating a baby's murder.

In a letter to Mr Kenneth Weetch, Labour MP for the town, the department said "it was seriously disturbed about what happened".

A clerk handed over information about pregnant women to the police despite the department's guidelines prohibiting such disclosures.

The police were investigating the murder at Bramford, Suffolk, the murder of a baby who has never been identified.

The disclosure by "a comparatively junior official" who believed that he was providing "justifiable cooperation in a murder inquiry" came to light after the police interviewed an expectant mother who had recently applied for maternity benefit.

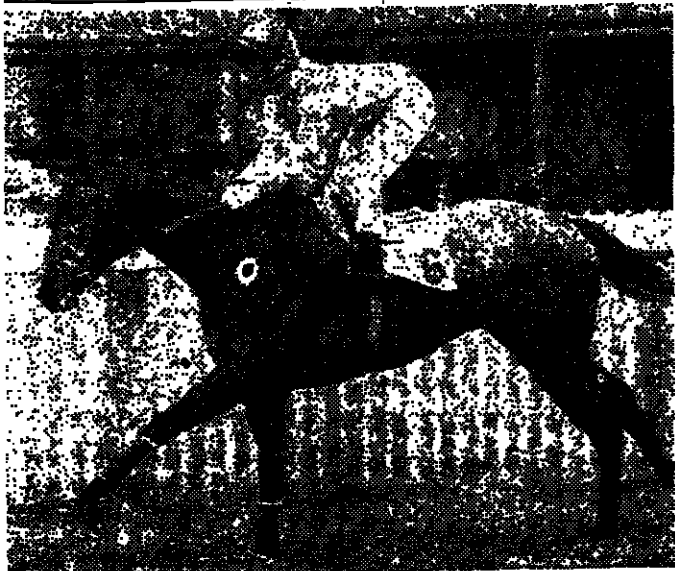
Liver transplant boy goes home

Matthew Whitaker, aged 11, of Burnley, who was given 20 months to live soon after he was born, left Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge yesterday with the new liver he was given nine weeks ago from a donor in Holland.

He was the second child to have a liver transplant at the hospital under Professor Roy Calne's care. The first was Ben Hardwick, aged two.

Sporting gift

The Duke of Edinburgh, patron of the Outward Bound Trust, received a £20,000 cheque yesterday on behalf of the adventure schools from the Variety Club of Great Britain whose members had raised the money at a sponsored sports lunch.



'Flockton Grey' winning at Leicester.

'Ringer' horse was kept from trainer, court told

From Our Correspondent, York

A racehorse trainer told a jury yesterday that he was dumped into running a "ringer" horse.

Mr Stephen Wiles told York Crown Court that, although he was registered as the trainer of Flockton Grey, all his efforts to prepare it for its first race were blocked.

He said that until it arrived at the Leicester course he had seen the horse only briefly

when it was officially named at his yard.

He was surprised when the grey gelding romped home to win the Knighton Auction Stakes in 1982.

It is alleged that the horse which ran in the guise of a two-year-old under the name Flockton Grey was in fact a three-year-old horse called Good Hand.

Mr Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, for the prosecution, has told the court that the grey gelding was given the false identity so that it could win easily against younger horses in the race for two-year-olds and provide a betting coup for Kenneth Richardson, a racehorse owner and businessman, and his racing manager Colin Mathison.

Mr Richardson, of Hutton, near Driffield, North Humberside, Mr Mathison, of Driffield, and Peter Boddy, a horse box driver, also of Driffield, deny conspiracy to defraud and to obtain property by deception. The trial continues today.



Surprised: The trainer, Mr Stephen Wiles.

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PARLIAMENT May 9 1984

Jenkin to have talks with Liverpool leaders

COUNCIL SPENDING

Labour Party successes in the recent local elections in Liverpool could not possibly amount to any form of sanction for an illegal budget, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said during Commons questions.

He said Liverpool City Council had a duty to make a lawful budget and a lawful rate and he hoped they would do so as swiftly as possible.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, was considering whether to make a visit to the city which would include a visit to the Liverpool Garden Festival and he would be going to Liverpool himself on June 7 to look at housing conditions.

During the exchanges, Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, said he and his colleagues in the Labour Party would be ready to help find a solution to the problem if they could be of an assistance in the discussions he hoped Mr Jenkin would have with the leaders of the city council.

Mr Robert Jenkin (Liverpool, Riverside, Lab) asked: Now that the people of Liverpool have given the Labour Party a clear mandate through the ballot box, and as this Government firmly believes in secret ballots, will he now agree to put more money on the table which is rightly demanded by the city?

On his visit, will he bring the Prime Minister with him? She has only been to Liverpool once since becoming Prime Minister - following the Toxteth riots. She could see the problems at first hand, particularly in relation to unemployment and the environment.

Mr Jenkin: The Prime Minister is considering whether to make a visit which would include a visit to the Garden Festival. I am sure Mr Jenkin will recognize there can be no electoral mandate for an unlawful act and there is no question that it remains the duty of the Liverpool City Council to make a lawful

budget and a lawful rate and I hope they will do this as swiftly as possible.

Mr Terry Fields (Liverpool, Broadgreen, Lab) will be welcome the decision of the Liverpool City Council to defer its budget-making, legal or illegal, until after his visit as a genuine and positive step. Will he tell the people of Liverpool he will not come with any rigid pre-conceived ideas?

Mr Jenkin: My colleague, Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, recently looked at housing problems in the city and I hope to see them for myself as a background to future housing capital allocations. But I must make it clear that this visit has no connection with the council's budget-making and rate fixing process and there must be no misunderstanding about that.

The council is under a clear legal duty to make a rate and it should do so without delay. Mr John Hiddle (Mid-Staffordshire, Ch) will make it clear to the council that the city's credibility is at stake and financial institutions cannot be expected to invest in Liverpool city stock unless the council runs its affairs on prudent and law-abiding lines.

Mr Jenkin: Liverpool has a clear duty to make an adequate rate and I hope the decision overnight not to make an illegal rate next Tuesday is a first step towards an adequate rate. But there are credit-worthiness problems involved if the city continues without a lawful rate and there is no reason at all why Liverpool's behaviour should affect the attitudes of lenders to other authorities who have acted in accordance with the law and good financial practice and have made legal rates.

Mr Robert Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby, Lab) would he agree that the people of Liverpool have made it perfectly clear by electing only three Conservative councillors that they reject the Tory Government's philosophy?

In view of his very flexible answers today, would he be willing to look in a positive way at the housing investment programme of Liverpool and give at least some hope that the housing prospects might be bettered?

Mr Jenkin: I have always recognized that the housing problems facing many of the people in Liverpool are extremely difficult and that is why I responded when invited by the city council to go and see some of the areas.

Any questions that might arise about future capital allocations for housing can have only the most marginal impact on any question of the rate support grant and on the duty to make a legal rate.

That is why I want to make it clear that my visit on June 7, to which I am looking forward, has nothing to do with the duty to make a legal rate which rests firmly on the city council.

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, L) There was very little support - 19 per cent - for Government policies but there is clearly no mandate for confrontation and an illegal rate, given that the Labour Party's vote went down last year.

The only vote that went up was the Liberal's which was 1 per cent. The solution may lie in the direction proposed by the Liberal group in Liverpool which demands of the Secretary of State the repayment of some of the rate support grant which has been taken off and the cancellation of some of the debts being paid on housing that no longer exists.

Mr Jenkin: I have been in touch with the leader of the Liberal Party in Liverpool and I have had useful exchanges with him. But I really must reaffirm, in reply to Labour MPs, that whatever the result of the vote it cannot possibly amount to any form of sanction for an unlawful rate.

I hope the councillors in all parties in Liverpool will now bend their attention to getting the council a proper budget and a lawful rate so that the city's affairs can remain under control.



Jenkin: No mandate for an unlawful act.

Dr Cunningham: Is there not now in Liverpool a clear and broad consensus in favour of a settlement of the city's problems which goes right across the churches, voluntary bodies as well as across the political parties?

While recognizing the need for a legal rate to be fixed as soon as possible, should not the problems of the city be resolved by negotiation between the secretary of state and the city council and not by allowing the problems of the city to slide into chaos?

There are already appalling difficulties for the people of Liverpool and these will become unimaginably worse if the city is allowed to slide into bankruptcy.

Mr Jenkin: He and Mr Neil Kinnock have been throughout entirely firm in their view that it is the duty of the city council to make a lawful rate and I am grateful to him for his offer to use his good offices if necessary.

I said after the election my door remains open, I am, of course, ready to meet the city councillors again if they would like that.

I hope that the decision not to press ahead with their unlawful budget and inadequate rate on Tuesday is a sign that there may indeed be a growing wish on the part of the citizens of Liverpool not to go down that road and, if so, that can only be welcome.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, told MPs at question time that he had agreed to meet the leaders of the five metropolitan county councils again to discuss the report by Coop Lybrand, the accountants, on the implications of abolishing the councils.

Guidance to farmers on nitrates

POLLUTION

Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, intends to issue this autumn a code of good agricultural practice which will apply itself specifically to the problem of nitrates, Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, said during Commons questions on the environment.

He was answering Mr David Cook (South Shields, Lab) who said that most nitrate pollution was caused by the over-use of nitrogenous fertilisers and asked if Mr Gow would discuss with the Treasury the possibility of taxing them to try to make farmers use them more efficiently and effectively.

Earlier Mr Edward Taylor (Southend East, C) asked what estimate he had made of the cost to water authorities of conforming to the revised standards of nitrate pollution of water supplies which come into effect in 1985.

Mr Gow replied: In order to meet in full the European Community directive which comes into force on July 15 next year up to £50m in capital outlay and some £5m per annum in operational expenditure. However, the directive permits derogations and I expect the actual cost to be substantially less.

Mr Taylor: As this substantial extra expenditure which will put up water rates further is a direct consequence of a substantial, dramatic and uncontrolled increase in the use of nitrate fertilisers, is it not deplorable that the agricultural ministry's advisory department sent out a circular to dairy farmers last week urging them to use even more nitrate fertilisers?

Does not his department have a special duty to argue for a cutback in the use of these fertilisers in the interests of public health and keeping down water rates?

Mr Gow: In the autumn of this year implementation of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 came into operation which will give the Government extra powers to control nitrate pollution. I will discuss the document to which Mr Taylor has referred with the Minister of Agriculture.

Wilson recalls his misery when jobless reached one million

UNEMPLOYMENT

Ministers should sit down with the trade unions to work constructively for greater industrial success and full employment, Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, the former Labour Prime Minister, said in opening a debate in the House of Lords calling attention to the continuing high rate of unemployment in the United Kingdom and the need for effective proposals to deal with the problem.

He said he was not referring to the present problems in the coal industry, but the long-term prospect for industry and the country.

Lord Wilson said that large areas of Britain, including some which a few years back were hard put to recruit workers they needed, were beset by chronic unemployment.

He remembered in office (he continued) the misery I felt when as Prime Minister I saw the unemployment figures creep up to one million. It seemed a chronically difficult situation which could only, in a sense, feel ashamed.

But the official figures as currently published by the Government, with the help of a slight seasonal fall, amounted in Britain to 3,037,000 and in the UK as a whole to 3,143,000. This was an all-time record for Britain.

If allowance was made for premature retirement, the true unemployment figure must be something of the order of 4,330,000.

The new oil finds would provide a timely reason for moving towards a more expansionist internal economy with less reliance on exports and more on joint Government and City, and Government and industry ventures.

The areas where in three years 90 per cent of school leavers had not found work, should be remembered and given priority.

We are all one country (he said) and what we need from the sources of democratic power in our constitution is a clear message to the Prime Minister in Churchillian terms - action this day.

The Earl of Gower, Minister of State, Privy Council Office, said unemployment was a major issue facing democratic governments of varying political persuasions, but there were indications that things were improving, not least in the United Kingdom.

Industrial output in the three months to February was up 4½ per cent upon a year ago and last year's gross domestic product was the highest among the Community nations.

But jobs were not in the gift of government; they were in the gift of the market and job security would come from a continuing

upturn in world trade and in the United Kingdom's own competitive response to such an upturn.

The wrong policies would make a difficult task even harder. The Government's aim was to create the conditions in which the British competitive position could improve. That meant lower inflation than their principal competitors, lower unit labour costs, higher investment in new and productive technology, higher quality control, better marketing and better profits.

No one (he said) seriously suggests we return to the manning levels of the 60s and 70s, the Wilson years, and no one suggests we should invest only or principally in labour intensive rather than capital intensive industry.

It should be remembered that 87 per cent were in work and that the

which it stood, was that people did not responsibly once cause and effect were not concealed.

Lord Kildale (Lab) said there was no substitute for Britain for a large, balanced and comprehensive manufacturing industry. With a population of 50 million odd Britain could not make a living out of agriculture however pleasant the prospect of rural, pastoral Britain might be. It was nonsense to suggest Britain could make a living out of services.

Lord Thorneycroft (C) said if Mr Arthur Scargill his way and kept his economic pits and put up the price of electricity it would lose jobs. That was what the debate was really about. Jobs were not decided in the House of Lords, they were decided in the North of England, in Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle and Scotland.

The Government had sold out on well. The battle to bring inflation down had been infinitely worth while. It was the holding down of inflation that the basic requirement of achieving employment. The battle for technology was another.

There were no quick answers, or perhaps no answers at all, to the evil which had spread across the Continent and half the world. But they could mitigate the damage. They could lay confidence for the future. The Government had not done badly in either of these areas.

Lord Spens (Ind) said measures should be taken to persuade married women to give up paid jobs, that was jobs subject to PAYE. These women should be encouraged to work as self-employed and preferably from their own homes.

I would (he said) like to see the married woman's earned income allowance abolished and a married benefit given to every married woman under pensionable of, say, £40 a week. But for those women who could not give up employment subject to PAYE that £40 would be deducted per week at 100 per cent.

Wilson: Ministers should sit down with unions.

Unite Kingdom had one of the largest workforces in Europe. But those in work could make a contribution to those less fortunate by recalling a comment made by Lord Wilson, that one man's pay rise was another man's job loss.

The Government's central purpose and the moral ground on

Benefits for miners' wives

The Department of Health and Social Security was depriving widows and children of miners in the present dispute of benefits to which they were lawfully entitled, Mr Gordon Brown, (Dunfermline, East, Lab) said. He failed in an application to the Speaker for an emergency debate on the subject.

Mr Brown said that the situation arose from a dubious ruling under which loans given by social work departments for relief were being described as income. People already receiving less than anyone else on social security would become still poorer.

Miners' wives whose husbands received nothing and who themselves got only 92p a day were driven to seek loans from the social work department and would lose social security benefit.

A shameful decision had been made and shamefully translated into action without the Commons being informed or consulted.

After protests about a minister from the DHSS not being present, Mr William Waldegrave, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, present following questions, said he would pay attention to what had been said to appropriate ministers.

Concession for low spending councils

RATE CAPPING

The Rates Bill was necessary because a number of Labour facing councils were being run by Marxists extremists and the party nationally was not willing to contain or control them Lord Bellwin, Minister for Local Government, said when the Bill completed its committee stage in the House of Lords late last night.

The main clause, giving the Government a reserve power to cap local rates, was carried by 140 votes to 130 - Government majority, 10.

The Government must have power to deal with the damage that authorities in the hands of Marxists might do, Lord Bellwin said in seeking approval of the clause.

While only a few local authorities were very high spenders, such behaviour might prove contagious and spread. If that happened the Government would have to take action to protect its economic strategy.

Lord Chelwood (C) said the clause was an ugly hybrid, spawned by the failure of successive governments over many years to tackle the reform of the rating system and local government electoral system, both of which played into the hands of extremists.

He asked the Government to take account of both sides of the argument. It had a choice between a hollow victory and a sensible compromise.

Lord Sandford (C) said the Government had not indicated the actual circumstances in which the clause would come into effect. He felt bound to vote against the clause, not to overturn a decision by the Commons, but to give them an opportunity to think again.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Local Government (Interim Provisions) Bill, committee, second day. Lords (3): Housing and Building Control Bill, committee, second day. Commons amendments, funding and valuation (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, committee, second day.

Tighter control on redundant doctors

HEALTH SERVICE

Regional health authorities have been asked to review cases of premature retirement from the NHS and received redundancy payments. Future proposals to reemploy doctors will require ministerial approval, Lord Glenarthur, Under Secretary of State for Social Services told the House of Lords.

Lord Ennals (Lab) had asked how many doctors who accepted redundancy payments averaging £20,000 each had subsequently accepted employment by the national health service. He said it could only be described as a slight of hand by doctors who really should know better.

Lord Glenarthur: Thirty nine doctors who had prematurely retired under the arrangements for premature retirement on organizational change have been reemployed by the NHS. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, has expressed concern over the reemployment of any officer who has received substantial compensation.

Of the 39 doctors, 19 have already left the service or will do so shortly. Regional chairmen have been asked to terminate the employment of a further 12 and inquiries are still proceeding on three.

Later, Lord Glenarthur said information on the available about payments to individual doctors or specifically to those who had reentered NHS employment. The average lump sum paid to those who had retired prematurely was £27,900 with an average pension of £10,285.

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

It was Mr Neil Kinnock's falling popularity that captured the headlines in the reports of the MORI poll published in The Standard, the London evening paper, this week. There was understandable it was the new development. But in politics consistent trends usually matter at least as much as new developments; and the poll confirmed that the two party leaders with consistently favourable ratings are Mr David Steel and Dr David Owen.

That does not mean that the Alliance is about to sweep the country. British politics is more about parties than personalities, and their respective assets of either Mr Steel or Dr Owen.

But to have the most popular party leaders in the country must be a considerable advantage for any political group. It strengthens the belief that sometime in the course of this Parliament the Alliance will have another big opportunity.

Every Conservative government for nearly 30 years has suffered from a Liberal revival half way through its term of office. But none of these revivals has been sustained at the subsequent general election.

Half way through Mrs Margaret Thatcher's first term it seemed that it might be different this time: the emergence of the Social Democratic Party had given the third force the political weight and experience that it would need to look credible at a general election. But the Alliance muffed its chances.

Half way through the present Parliament it will be surprising if there is not an Alliance resurgence going well beyond the mild encouragement it derived from last week's by-elections.

The Government will be encountering the kind of troubles that beset every administration; there will be a degree of boredom with Mrs Thatcher; Conservative dissidents will again find it easier to switch to the Liberals or Social Democrats than to go right over to Labour. Mr Steel will continue to please on television; and Dr Owen should be benefiting more than he has yet done from the widespread recognition that he is the most formidable of all the opposition leaders in the House of Commons.

The Alliance should then be winning by-elections, not just coming a respectable second. But will that just be one more mild-term revival like all the others? Or will the Alliance be able to establish itself at the following general election?

On present form it will fail to do so. It does not look a government in embryo, and unless it does it is unlikely to become even the official opposition. Nobody can be sure what kind of political animal it is. Is it growing into a single party with two heads? Is it like a pantomime horse, with two bodies inside one skin? If so, can they be relied upon to move in the same direction? How would the Alliance actually run the country?

Unless it looks effective as a political force the popularity of its leaders will not count for all that much in the long run. It will certainly not be enough to achieve a lasting breakthrough. The history of British politics is littered with the names of brilliant personalities who failed because they did not manage to place themselves at the head of a party that could win power.

Owen performing well in Commons

Mr Steel appreciates the need well enough, but has been unable to forge either the Liberals into such an instrument of being able to build the SDP into such a party by itself and does not seem to want the Alliance to become sufficiently close for the purpose. Yet he gives the impression that he has the capacity to create an effective Alliance if only he saw the need.

He is performing brilliantly in the Commons. He is thinking more seriously than any other leading figure in any opposition party about how an alternative government to the Conservatives might run the country. But he cannot do it all himself.

Political leadership requires the art of delegation, of inducing other people of talent to give of their best and of forming necessary partnerships. The essence of British politics is that a good deal upon how far Dr Owen has developed those arts.

Less than boarding Highland

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Labour seeks inquiry before GLC elections are cancelled

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Amendments to ensure proper inquiries were made before further progress was taken to abolish elections to the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan councils were moved by Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, when the committee stage of the Local Government (Interim Provisions) Bill began in the Commons.

He said it was sad that the day after such a success story for central and local government working in partnership as the opening of the Thames Barrier, that the government should bring such a tawdry measure to the House.

It was unprecedented for any government to propose such a Bill based on the flimsiest of evidence. The Government had also flinched from those inquiries which had been carried out at the instigation of the councils concerned.

The House had been denied for many months any serious comment by the Secretary of State on the financial implications of all these changes. Not only were the councils to be disbanded without proper inquiry, apparently they were also to be prevented from having their case heard by the people who elected them.

This came ill from a Government and party which had made so much of the media in its own election campaigns.

These democratically-elected authorities had not only a right but a duty to tell the people in the areas they governed what was at stake and what the implications were.

The latest opinion survey in London showed that approaching 80 per cent of the people of the GLC area and a majority of Tory voters were opposed to what the Government was doing. The minister was concerned because he had been humbled.

All this Government posturing, huffing and puffing had backfired. They were the people who set provisions in statute the power to disband them were now being used.

As with the financial and economic arguments about the role, structure and functions of the metropolitan counties and the GLC, no inquiry had been carried out and no proper examination made. A

hastily cobbled together manifesto commitment formed the foundation on which the changes were being put to the House.

They should not be proceeded with until such matters had been properly addressed and the House had had the opportunity to see the evidence independently provided of what really was going to be the result.

The Opposition believed that an inquiry would come down heavily against what was being proposed. But even if it did not, the Government and the House would know that decisions were being made in the best possible way, with the facts on the record for discussion. That was not true now.

If the Government was so convinced of the force of its case and of public support, why not put this to the test and allow the metropolitan counties and London to express a view? Involved were 13 million voters affecting 18 million people, almost a third of the country's population. People were being robbed of their vote. The elections should go ahead.

Mr Ian Gillies (Chesham and Amersham, C) said one of the constitutional objections to the Bill was that the Government was proceeding in the wrong order, by passing measures for transition before telling the House what the transition was towards.

Mr Harry Cowans (Tynebridge, Lab) said that they were being asked to vote for a pig in a poke, to end something without being told what was to be put in its place.

Because some local authorities had dared to exercise powers conferred on them by the Conservative Government, the Government did not like it and the only way they could stop that was by abolishing those authorities.

Mr Geoffrey Rippon (Hexham, C) said there was nothing in the Bill which the Government could claim to be covered by its mandate because the manifesto referred to the abolition of the GLC and the metropolitan county councils but did not say how or when that would be done. Nor did the manifesto provide for a paying Bill without a referendum, which the Government was going to lead.

He hoped the Government would not dismiss all the anxieties about the Bill simply by referring to the mandate.

He had no objection to the abolition of the GLC or to changing the boundaries or functions of local government, but there ought to be some explanation of what abuse of power there had been which justified such changes.

It would be wiser to contemplate some form of review of what would happen after the councils were abolished.

Police Bill scrutiny

Lawyers urge detention review

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

As the Government's Police Bill moves towards its closing stages in the Commons, lawyers and other self-appointed scrutineers are marshalling their arguments for a second round of lobbying when it arrives in the Lords.

The Government has promised a number of amendments which have been tabled for the report stage, expected in two weeks. The chief amendment is for a safeguard on detention before charge up to 96 hours in the case of serious arrestable offences.

The Government has accepted the need for a second magistrates' review after the first at 36 hours and before the 96-hour limit and is changing the Bill to ensure this occurs. Nobody would then be held for more than 36 hours at a stretch without a second review.

The Government has already announced that journalistic material will remain covered by the safeguards applying to doctor's and lawyers' records against police powers of search and seizure and that unsolicited material sent to journalists will also be protected.

However, this will disappoint

the Newspaper Society and some sections of the press which, unlike the Guild of British Newspaper Editors, wanted all references to journalistic material deleted. The Newspaper Society feared this would lead to the definition of a journalist in the courts.

Critics argue there is room for over-imperviousness. The Law Society is particularly concerned that the definition of a "serious arrestable offence", which has been significantly tightened, has now become a catch-all, covering even petty theft.

The Law Society would also like the second review of detention after 36 hours to be set at 60 hours, and wants changes to the provisions on duty solicitors in police stations.

At present these appear to exclude the employment of solicitors' clerks, but the Law Society argues they would be better than nobody where a qualified solicitor is not available.

The National Council for Civil Liberties and the Legal Action Group will press for an "exclusionary rule" so that any

evidence obtained in breach of the Bill's provisions on search and seizure or questioning and detention is automatically excluded from use in court.

Another concern of the National Council for Civil Liberties is that the Bill for the first time enshrines in statute the right of the police to detain suspects for the purpose of questioning, as established in a recent House of Lords ruling.

Miss Barbara Cohen, the council's legal officer, said: "It is one thing if someone has to be detained while accomplices are rounded up, but quite another if people lose their liberty just to assist police investigating offences by means of questioning."

The council also wants increased safeguards for third parties under the police search and seizure powers.

Hosepipe ban

The South-West Water Authority has banned garden hosepipes in 167 Cornwall and Devon parishes after three months of low rainfall culminating in a very dry April.

Trust lease for bunker defended

The National Trust, facing legal action by Lord Beaumont, the Liberal peer, to halt construction of a Nato strike command bunker on trust land at the foot of the Chiltern hills, contended yesterday that his action was misconceived.

Mr Hubert Piccard, counsel for the trust, told the High Court that it was open to the trust's council to grant leases of its land. The decision to lease land at Hollybush Farm, Napp Hill, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, to the Ministry of Defence had not been arrived at lightly.

The trust had pressed the ministry about the possibility of an alternative site, but had been assured that there was none and the matter was one of national security.

Lord Beaumont, a life member of the trust, says that the bunker, surrounded by a wall and searchlights, will destroy natural scenery.

His counsel, Mr John Macdonald, QC, said the land had been bequeathed to the trust on the understanding that it would be inalienable.

Mr Justice Nicholls reserved judgment.



Los Angeles counts cost of running Olympics without the champions

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

With political recriminations about the Soviet withdrawal from the Olympics still reverberating between Moscow and Washington, Los Angeles Olympic officials yesterday woke up to the alarming realization that it could mean a loss of millions of dollars.

This may exceed £100m (£72m), although Mr Harry Usher, executive vice-president and general manager of the Games, insisted yesterday: "We will break even regardless of what happens." But the fact remains that an Olympics without the Soviet Union and its allies, particularly the powerful East Germans, is a devalued Games. Punch and Judy without Punch, a heavyweight title fight without the champion.

In the 1976 Montreal Olympics, the last in which both superpowers participated, seven of the top medal-winning countries were from the Eastern block. The feeling here is one of despondency, with a ray of hope that the decision may be reversed. No Russians - 800 were expected - and no East

Germans, means no real competition, which adds up to less excitement, less television coverage and fewer advertisers, thus less income.

The biggest loss will come from television. ABC, which paid \$225m for exclusive coverage, still owes about \$60m, payable by June 2. The network has a clause in its contract which allows for drastic reduction of the fee if the Russians stay away.

The Olympic committee expects a ripple effect. The 32-nation European Broadcasting Union, which paid \$19.8m for coverage, Japan (\$18.5m), Australia (\$10.6m) and the other countries will no doubt negotiate accordingly.

ABC will not suffer. It had the foresight to buy a \$200m policy, paying an \$8m premium, the largest insurance cover ever bought on a contract of the history of the entertainment industry. It indemnifies the network against any loss resulting from withdrawal by any one of 11 nations.

The repercussions will be felt everywhere. Hotels are fully

booked and most of the main events are sold out. But the bleak news may change that.

Although Mayor Tom Bradley says he expects 600,000 people to come to California, with or without Soviet participation, attendance will almost certainly be down and the \$4 billion target for southern California is unlikely to be reached. This was billed as the first capitalist Olympics, the first for many years to make a profit. Even that, anticipated at \$15.5m, is in jeopardy.

Mr Peter Ueberroth, president of the Los Angeles Olympic Committee, who last month went to Switzerland to try to avert the boycott, never really believed it would happen, although, when asked about the financial impact of an Olympics without the Russians, he said: "Large - but I don't really care. The economic side of these Games is over. We'll have a small surplus either way - and I don't give a damn for the economics."

Leading article, page 13

King and Comrades meet in Moscow

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain, both of whom have family links with the last Tsar of Russia, begin a six-day state visit to the Soviet Union today. The King will be the first Western head of state to meet President Chernenko in the Kremlin.

Spokesmen at the palace have carefully brushed aside the historic overtones which, in the King's case, go back to Queen Victoria, insisting that this is one of the many state visits designed to improve relations, regardless of widely differing model systems.

During his eight-year reign, King Juan Carlos has, however, come to hold something of a unique position for a constitutional monarch. One aspect of this has been frank political conversation with other leaders - the results of which remain undisclosed - whenever the King judges such personal diplomacy might benefit Spain.

Señor Felipe Gonzales, the Prime Minister, is desperately anxious to help efforts for a new dialogue between the superpowers. Señor Fernando Moran, the Foreign Minister, will accompany the royal couple on the first state visit to the Soviet Union since relations were resumed in February 1977. He will meet Mr Andrei Gromyko, his Soviet counterpart.

Señor Gonzales has been emphasizing that Spain will never adopt a neutralist position. But the King is a sportsman and reaches Moscow just after the announcement of the Los Angeles withdrawal. He might have a quiet word on the subject to support the efforts of Señor Juan Samaranch, who was Spain's first Ambassador in Moscow after relations resumed, before he became president of the International Olympic Committee. Barcelona is competing to hold the 1992 Games which strengthens the interest.

The King's links with the Romanovs are through marriage. His grandmother, Victoria Eugenia of Battenberg was the wife of Alfonso XIII and granddaughter of Queen Victoria, while another granddaughter was the last Tsarina.

Spanish historians say Alfonso XIII sought to save the Russian royal family after the October Revolution and even thought of granting them asylum. Queen Sofia's links are by blood since the founder of the former Greek royal house, George I of the Hellenes and her ancestor, married the Russian Grand Duchess Olga in 1867.

Monarchical Spain broke relations after the Russian Revolution, which the Republic then resumed. Spaniards fought on both sides in Russia in the Second World War, Franco sending the Blue Divisions to help Hitler, while republican exiles from the Civil War helped Stalin.

Relations between the two nations at the extreme of Europe have known other ups and downs. Dostoevsky greatly admired Don Quixote but Spaniards, with their long memories, also recall those useless ships Russian palmed off during the Napoleonic wars - vainly ordered to make good Spain's losses at Trafalgar.

As the King goes to Moscow, Spain's Communist Party is cultivating a breakthrough pro-Moscow faction. In spite of protests, Moscow has invited the faction's leader to visit the Soviet Union.

Russia wants to increase trade which last year only totalled £500m between the countries. Spain exported wine, citrus and tinned goods and bought timber, heavy machinery and energy products.

Double win keeps Hart hopes alive

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Senator Gary Hart has salvaged his faltering campaign by narrowly winning crucial primary victories in Ohio and Indiana, thereby making it virtually impossible for his main rival, Mr Walter Mondale, to clinch the Democratic presidential nomination before the party's national convention in July.

However, by scoring comfortable wins in two other primaries, in Maryland and North Carolina, Mr Mondale retained his two-to-one delegate lead over the Colorado Senator.

This advantage is likely to be whittled down during a series of primaries in Western states which Mr Hart is expected to win over the next four weeks, culminating in a grand-slam finale in California, the biggest primary of the whole campaign, on June 5. But Mr Mondale is likely to go to San Francisco with a big enough delegate lead to make him the firm favourite for the nomination.

A triumphant Mr Hart declared after his Ohio and Indiana victories that "the Democrats of this nation are not prepared to have this contest and this debate end at this time." An equally confident-sounding Mr Mondale responded by saying that his two wins were "an additional important, significant step down the road to the nomination."

Tuesday's results mean that the unity moves being attempted by Party leaders will have to be shelved at least until after the final "contests take place on June 5."

The third contestant, the Rev Jesse Jackson, who finished second in Maryland and lost in the three other races on Tuesday, despite strong support from black votes, has also said he intends to stay in the race until San Francisco.

With virtually all votes counted Mr Hart had won 42

HOW THEY STAND

The latest delegate count after Tuesday's primaries (according to United Press International)

Mondale 1,510

Hart 891

Jackson 306

Uncommitted 339

Other 48

Total 3,104

per cent of the ballots cast in Ohio to 40 per cent for Mr Mondale and 17 per cent for Mr Jackson.

The percentages for Mr Hart and Mr Mondale here the same in Indiana, while Mr Jackson fared less well, with only 14 per cent of the vote.

In Maryland Mr Mondale now 43 per cent of the vote to Mr Jackson's 27 per cent and Mr Hart's 24 per cent.

In North Carolina, a state which Mr Hart had once been tipped to win, Mr Mondale won 36 per cent of the vote, Mr Hart 30 per cent and Mr Jackson 25 per cent.

Tuesday's primary results brought Mr Mondale 189 delegates closer to the 1,967 he needs to secure the party's nomination at the convention.

However, although he needs only 457 delegates to secure a majority, there are only 571 delegates remaining to be selected by popular vote - another 418 will be named by state parties.

As Mr Mondale failed to win more than 50 per cent of the vote in any of this week's primaries, it is most unlikely that he will obtain the 475 he needs in the forthcoming contests.

The wins in Ohio and Indiana were Mr Hart's first primary victories since Connecticut in March, and his first victory in a big industrial state since he won Massachusetts.

After suffering a series of big state defeats in Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania and most recently in Texas, Mr Hart had to win in Ohio to prevent his elimination from the race.



Beirut meeting: Mr Karami (right) greets Mr Jumblatt, the Druze leader, in West Beirut to work out acceptable venues for the Cabinet meeting.

Karami clears way for vital Cabinet session

Beirut (Reuters) - The Lebanese Prime Minister, Mr Rashid Karami, appeared to have overcome a last-minute hitch yesterday that prevented his new national unity Cabinet from holding its regular weekly meeting.

The meeting was postponed after the Druze leader, Mr Walid Jumblatt, with support from his Shia ally, Mr Nabih Berri, refused to go to the presidential palace in the Christian village of Baabda on the grounds that the journey was unsafe.

Mr Karami met the two ministers in mainly Muslim West Beirut yesterday and later told reporters they had reached an agreement. Asked to elaborate, he said: "You will find out tomorrow."

Sources close to Mr Jumblatt said he, Mr Berri and Mr Karami had drawn up a short list of alternative venues to submit to President Gemayel. The meeting will probably take place today.

It was not clear if any of the venues would be acceptable to the right-wing Christians

Yugoslavia denounces Moscow's pullout

By Our Foreign Staff

Yugoslavia, host of the 1984 Winter Olympic Games, has denounced the Soviet decision to withdraw.

Mr Branko Eker, head of Yugoslavia's highest sports body, said in a statement: "We deplore the decision of the Soviet Union as it brings into question the universality of an event which greatly transcends the sport framework."

"As host to the Winter Olympics, we deplore the fact that next summer's Olympic Games will be incomplete and this is not in their sport content only. We hold that the Olympic ideal and Games should continue to be strengthened."

American Olympic officials remained hopeful that the Soviet Union would take part. "I think the chance for Soviet participation is still very real," said Mr Peter Ueberroth, president of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee.

The decision was seen in Washington as retaliation for the US boycott of the 1980 Games in Moscow and a Kremlin attempt to harm President Reagan's re-election efforts.

But there was widespread confusion about Moscow's intentions. Mr Joe Adamov, a Soviet official who frequently comments on ties with Washington, said in a television interview: "It is my personal opinion the decision is final."

However, the Soviet basketball team will take part as planned in an Olympic qualifying tournament in Toulouse on Saturday, according to the French Olympics chief, M Nelson Pailhou, in Paris.

Participation was confirmed in a telex message 24 hours after Moscow announced that it would not take part in the Games in July.

"That does not necessarily mean that they have changed their minds. But as the point of the tournament is to qualify for Los Angeles, it could well mean that they don't consider their decision as irrevocable," he said.

Former President Jimmy Carter, who organized the American boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics after the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, said the Soviet decision not to go to Los Angeles was "unwarranted."

West Germany, which itself boycotted the 1980 Olympics, is deeply concerned that the East Germans will be forced to follow suit.

Athletes' opinion, page 23



Traffic stopper: French Formula One racing drivers René Arnoux (rear), Philippe Alliot and Patrick Tambay in the passenger seats of an 1884 Delamare-Debutouville and Malandri model, one of the first cars ever built, on the Champs Elysées yesterday.

US marks on downed aircraft

Managua (Reuters) - A helicopter shot down by Nicaraguan troops over northern Nicaragua had US army markings on its tail, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry said.

A statement said the aircraft was originally thought to have been Honduran because a body of one of its crew members carried a Honduran identity card.

But an inspection of the helicopter, which came down on Tuesday about five miles north-west of the Nicaraguan port of Potosi, revealed an inscription on the tail saying "US Army Commander HH 3729 (AL 14 AL 1101)", the statement said.

The helicopter was the second to be shot down by Nicaraguan gunfire this year. In January Nicaraguan troops shot down a US helicopter close to the Honduran border. US officials said the aircraft had strayed off course in strong winds.

Diplomatic sources here said secret US military exercises were currently underway in the Gulf of Fonseca, said by Washington to be used as a channel for arms shipments to rebels fighting the US-backed Government in El Salvador.

Other US naval manoeuvres in the Gulf, designed to help stop the alleged arms flow, ended earlier this week.

TEGUCIGALPA: Honduran



Kohl looks East for stability

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Chancellor Kohl of West Germany told members of his Christian Democratic Party yesterday that his Government was under no illusion that the leadership in East Germany was communist dictatorship which would only be ended by human rights of fellow Germans.

But he told the party's congress here that his Government had done much in the past year to improve the lot of ordinary people in East Germany. It had fulfilled its obligation to maintain the unity of the German nation, and it had done its best to promote stability in East-West relations.

He did not flinch from using tough words to condemn East German attempts to "rewrite history" and said he was not blind to East German strivings to create a communist state in all Germany. But history had not spoken the last word: The German nation was a reality in the consciousness of all German people.

While strongly defending his

record in improving links with the GDR over the past year, the Chancellor appeared to be preparing his audience for possible future disappointments. And he emphasized to the CDU congress the allies that German unity would only ever be achieved in a European context and with the support of West Germany's allies.

It was symbolic that the European parliamentary elections fell on June 17 - the anniversary of the 1953 uprising in East Berlin. "We have to unite Europe, so that Germany can also achieve its unity in freedom," he declared.

The CDU congress is being used to launch the party campaign for the European elections, and the Chancellor called on all CDU voters to demonstrate their commitment to the European ideal.

Herr Kohl made much of his Government's resolution in honouring its commitment last autumn to deploy Nato missiles. In surprisingly sharp tones

he told the Russians that West Germany would never accept being in a zone of lesser security, nor lay itself open to Soviet political blackmail.

He said the close consultations last year with the Americans had strengthened the Nato alliance, and called for further intensive cooperation so that Moscow would never have a chance in the future to decouple Europe from the United States.

Speaking with confidence and self-assurance, the Chancellor defended his Government's economic policies, which he said had brought an upswing in the economic climate and wiped out the country's serious financial problems.

He barely made any mention of the strike threat in the engineering industry, and with studied sang-froid ignored altogether the row over plans for an amnesty for companies accused of evading taxes when making payments to political parties.

BBC wins prize for objectivity

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The Onassis Athenian prize, awarded to the BBC's External Services for the objectivity and balance of its reporting, was presented by President Karanastanis to Mr Stuart Young, BBC chairman, in Athens yesterday.

Mr Young, in his acceptance speech, announced that the £100,000 (£72,500) prize would be used to set up a travel scholarship to enable non-ambulatory members of the External Services staff to travel abroad.

Praise for the BBC's worldwide role in difficult times, came from M Maurice Druon, a member of the French Academy, who sits on the international committee which awards the prize. "What man or people, fighting against Nazism, was not helped at one time or another by the BBC's broadcasts? How many were not helped by it to overcome human fear, despair and solitude? And which people were not helped by the BBC to withstand the temptation of resigning themselves to their fate?"

Mr Young said the maintenance of standards of objectivity and balance had not been an easy job. He was critical of governments trying to manipulate the coverage of news, and also of international bodies (a clear allusion to Unesco) making things worse through "ill-considered actions". But he made it quite clear that, although the British Government was giving the BBC money to operate, it was not telling it what to say.

Danes give up hunt for toxic barrels

Copenhagen - The Danish authorities have finally called off a four-month North Sea search after naval and environmental ships retrieved only 53 of the 80 barrels of highly poisonous agricultural weedkiller washed overboard from a cargo ship near Dogger Bank in a storm in January (Christopher Follett writes).

Dutch fishing trawlers netted 14 of the remaining toxic barrels, leaving 13 of them still untraced 160ft down on the seabed in rich fishing grounds 160 miles east of Newcastle. Each of the missing barrels contains 440lb of Dinoseb, a virulent toxic chemical.

Good and bad news for Poles

Berne (Reuters) - Two Poles, jailed for occupying the Polish Embassy in Berne in September, 1982, have had their two and a half-year jail sentences shortened for good conduct, the Justice Ministry said.

However, Marek Michalski and Mirosław Piłowski, must stay in prison because they have been ordered to leave Switzerland and no other country has agreed to take them.

Hostage deal

Prague (AFP) - Czechoslovakia, in the first direct negotiations between an eastern block country and the United States, has reached an agreement for the release of 20 Czechoslovak hostages held since March last year.

Job for Aguirre

Strasbourg (Reuters) - The Council of Europe Assembly has elected the former Spanish Foreign Minister, Señor Marcelino Oreaga Aguirre as secretary-general for a five-year term.

Arras blocked

Paris (Reuters) - French milk producers blocked roads around Arras in north-eastern France to protest at the proposed cuts in European milk output. The Agriculture Minister, M Michel Rocard, will begin talks today with the producers to decide how to implement the cuts.

Blind attack

Kuwait (AFP) - The Saudi Oil Minister Shaikh Yamani, said Iraqi fighter pilots who "bombed Saudi oil tankers in the Gulf earlier this week did not know their identity. The two tankers, which were attacked, belonged to private Saudi companies, he said.

Disco trains

Paris - Discos, feeding rooms for mothers and babies, play areas for children, and folklore shows are to be introduced in specially converted carriages on French railways this summer in an attempt to attract more passengers.

Cyclist suicide

Mito (AFP) - Hiromi Yamaji, professional cyclist, committed suicide by inhaling gas at his home in Ibaraki prefecture, east of Tokyo. His wife, aged 38, and two sons, aged 13 and 10 were also found dead in the same living room.

Brazil's tank

Brazil has unveiled its first tracked tank, the 28-ton Tamoi, which will go on sale in 1986. The new tank, aimed at the Middle East market, will have a top speed of 50 mph and a range of 400 miles.

Prison protests

Ankara (AFP) - A total of 266 prisoners in two Istanbul military jails are continuing a hunger strike begun last month. The prisoners, former leftist militants some of whom have been awaiting trial for four years, are protesting at conditions in the jails.

Lifeboat rescue

A boy aged 12 and three men from Redfordshire were rescued by the Harwich lifeboat yesterday after their ketch sank off the Essex coast. They were returning from Ostend.

Hongkong group lobbying for right to live in UK

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

An influential group from Hongkong who arrive in Britain today seem likely to press for all those in the colony who cannot face life under Communist rule after 1997, to be given the right to settle in Britain.

At present only 20,000 people with British passports would have the automatic right to live in this country after China takes control over Hongkong.

But members of the colony's administrative bodies, the executive and legislative councils, are questioning whether the same right should not be extended to more than 2,000,000 with only British dependant territory citizenship. It is one of "many anxious

questions" to which no satisfactory answer has yet been given, they say in a document outlining their views, which was published last night (Wednesday).

Nine "unofficial" members of the two councils are coming here to lobby MPs on behalf of those living in the colony, in advance of next week's Commons debate.

● PEKING. The fourteenth round of talks between Britain and China on the future of Hongkong aimed at connecting the territories' security and prosperity resumed in Peking yesterday and will continue today.

1984年5月10日

Cancelled trip to Peking seen as setback to Sino-Soviet normalization

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The Soviet Union has surprisingly cancelled a visit to China by Mr Ivan Arkhipov, the 77-year-old Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, who was due to arrive in Peking today. No explanation was given, and Soviet officials yesterday refused to comment.

The visit was cancelled at the last moment, diplomatic sources said. Peking had only been informed yesterday that Mr Arkhipov would not be coming.

Moscow and Peking have held several rounds of talks aimed at normalizing relations between the two Communist great powers after 15 years of animosity. Mr Arkhipov would have been the most senior Soviet leader to go to China in that period, and was to have held talks on economic and technical cooperation.

Earlier press reports in Moscow had built up the trip as another stage in the normalization process.

There was speculation that the sudden cancellation of Mr Arkhipov's trip was connected either with his health or the advanced age, or with Moscow's decision not to attend the Los Angeles Olympic Games, which has caused widespread international dismay.

But the cancellation also comes at a time when Moscow and Peking are at loggerheads over armed clashes on the

Chinese-Vietnamese border. Last week Russia accused China of carrying out the most serious "armed provocations" against Moscow-backed Vietnam since the border clashes of five years ago. Tass said that China's use of military force against Vietnam was "reprehensible and short-sighted."

Tensions between China and Vietnam over Vietnamese activities in Cambodia have so far been a major stumbling block in the Sino-Soviet talks, which have made very little progress. Moscow also repeatedly attacked President Reagan's recent trip to China, accusing him of using the visit to make slanderous attacks on Russia, even though the Chinese endorsed Mr Reagan's anti-Soviet remarks in the Chinese media. This was seen at the time as an attempt to mollify the Russians on the eve of Mr Arkhipov's trip.

Tass merely remarked that the Chinese press had been "obliged to delete his most odious pronouncements". On the other hand, there was relief in Moscow that Mr Reagan's Peking talks had not led to close-knit Sino-American ties aimed at Russia, and that, on the contrary, Mr Reagan had gone out of his way to applaud Peking's efforts toward a rapprochement with the Soviet Union, on the grounds that

reduction of ideological and border tensions could only contribute to regional stability.

● PEKING: The postponement of Mr Arkhipov's visit is "politically motivated", well-placed Chinese sources said here last night (David Bonania writes).

The Chinese consider that Mr Arkhipov has been delayed because of the recent border fighting between China and Vietnam.

One source pointed out in addition, that Mr Arkhipov was appointed to succeed Mr Leonid Brezhnev as Soviet delegation leader by the late Mr Yuri Andropov. They said that Mr Chernenko, Mr Andropov's successor as Soviet party chief and President, might have decided against Mr Arkhipov's appointment.

Mr Arkhipov would have been the most senior Soviet leader to visit Peking since 1969, when the late Mr Alexei Kosygin, then Soviet Prime Minister, met the late Mr Chou En-lai, then Chinese Prime Minister, at Peking airport after border fighting between the two countries.

Mr Arkhipov was head of the entire programme of Soviet aid to China in the 1950s, which was broken off in 1960 because of the deepening political split between the two countries.

Pope visits site of Guadalcanal battles

Honiara, Solomon Islands (Reuter) - The Pope visited the Second World War battleground of the Solomon Islands yesterday and heard the Governor-General express anger over continued nuclear testing in the Pacific.

Tribesmen in loincloths performed a war dance when the Pope, his face reddened by the sun, arrived on a one-day visit as part of his Asian and South Pacific tour. Foreign journalists were barred from entering the country for fear that someone intending to harm the Pope might slip in with them. Reporters travelling with the Pope were excluded from the ban.

The 400-strong local security force kept a discreet presence as the Pope rode in an open white Jeep through the capital on Guadalcanal, the main island. Thousands of American and Japanese troops died here during the Allied Offensive which halted Japan's southern thrust in 1942 and 1943. Former President Kennedy was marooned on one of the islands when his PT109 boat was cut in half by an enemy ship in 1943.

In Honiara, the Pope sat in a sports stadium, ringed by about 10,000 people, and listened intently as the Governor-General, Sir Baddeley Dervell, expressed concern over continuing French nuclear tests at Mururoa Atoll.

Sir Baddeley, a Solomon Islander representing the Queen in this former British



Invitation to dance: A tribesman in Honiara lunges at the Pope, who soon realized it was the cue for the dancing to start.

colony, said South Pacific nations had already agreed on a concerted effort to keep their ocean free from pollution. "As you see, Your Holiness, our future survival largely depends on our rich marine resources and the proper utilization of them."

Later, the Pope was shown a group of tribespeople making money beads from sea shells, which are sometimes used to

buy wives among the Lange Lange tribe on the island of Malaita. He also visited a jail, said Mass at a sports ground and saw hospital patients before flying back to Papua New Guinea, which he leaves today for Thailand, where he will visit a refugee camp on the last leg of his tour.

● PORT MORESBY: The Pope has told Catholic bishops here that the Church must oppose moves by the Papua New Guinea Government to send back refugees who have crossed the border from strife-torn Irian Jaya (James Oram writes).

While sympathizing with the Government over the question of refugees, the Church "must stand up for human rights". The Pope emphasized that people must be protected.

Report says Turkey still using torture

By Henry Stanhope

Diplomatic Correspondent

Amnesty International, which has accused the Turkish authorities of torturing thousands of men and women since the military coup in 1980, says the pattern has not changed since last year's return to civilian rule.

A catalogue of complaints by people detained under martial law includes one by a middle-aged man who was forced to watch his children being tortured.

Other prisoners were tied to hot radiator pipes or suspended from the ceiling while guards beat the soles of their feet until they screamed.

Married and engaged couples were among those subjected to beatings and electric shock treatment, according to an Amnesty report published yesterday.

The report is the first of a new series of torture files which Amnesty is publishing after the launch of a new campaign last month to eradicate torture as an instrument of state policy.

Amnesty says the Turkish report underlines the need for effective safeguards, including instructions by governments to their law enforcement bodies outlawing torture.

It is doubtful, the report says, whether all allegations of torture reported to the authorities are investigated.

Leading article, page 13

Second day of shooting in Quebec

Quebec City (Reuter) - A sniper wearing an army jacket shot and wounded two people here yesterday and took a hostage the day after an army corporal was shot in a shooting spree in Quebec's Provincial Assembly, killing three people.

Police said the sniper, firing a shotgun, slightly wounded two people in a shopping district of Quebec City and then took a hostage in a private home.

The sniper told them he could not sleep overnight because he was troubled by yesterday's rampage in which a Canadian soldier sprayed the assembly with a submachine gun. Three assembly employees died and 14 were wounded.

In yesterday's incident, police said a 25-year-old man was wounded in the arm, leg and hip and a woman motorist was wounded in the throat when shotgun pellets pierced her car window.

● OTTAWA: A Canadian soldier, Dennis Lorie, was due to appear in a Quebec City court yesterday, charged with murder after Tuesday's machine-gun shooting spree in the Quebec National Assembly (our Correspondent writes).

Hero of the day was Mr René Jalbert, the Assembly's Sergeant at Arms, and a veteran from the Second World War, who gained the soldier's confidence and talked him into his office.

Palace theft a scare for Madrid

From Harry Debellus

Madrid

The theft of a painting worth nearly £5,000 from the Madrid palace complex, where the Spanish Prime Minister lives and works, left officials more concerned about security than about the breach of the law.

The incident was expected to influence the Cabinet's discussion yesterday of a proposal to spend an additional 245m pesetas (£1.2m) to tighten security at the complex. The money would be used to increase perimeter security, make certain installations in the Prime Minister's residence more secure, improve control in sensitive areas and enlarge the guard's headquarters.

An official high in the administration remarked: "If they got away that easily with the picture, they could just as easily have left a suitcase full of explosives."

The Prime Minister was on a trip to Denmark and Finland over the weekend when the theft occurred. The painting disappeared from a wall in a hallway outside the office of the Minister of Public Administration in a building adjacent to the Prime Minister's residence. It was a valuable copy of a portrait of the Marquis de la Ensenada.

Polish charity food agreement closer

From Roger Boyes Warsaw

The Polish Catholic church leadership and the Communist authorities are still wrestling with a controversial multi-million pound scheme to help private farmers and bring more food to the shops - but the way forward may now be clear. Church sources believe that General Jaruzelski's trip to Moscow has made it easier for Warsaw to approve the scheme, which owes little to Karl Marx and depends heavily on Western finance and Christian charity.

The idea is to collect millions of pounds worth of funds and materials from church communities in America and Western Europe, and from Western governments. The money would be used to buy essential equipment - tractors, combine harvesters - and supplies, deliver them to a foundation established by the Polish church and allow the clergy to sell the goods to private farmers. The farmers would pay fair Zloty prices and the money would be reinvested by the foundation to improve roads or irrigation in the countryside.

A law has now been passed setting up the legal structure for such a foundation. All that remains is for the state and the church to agree on the statutes, for the agriculture and finance ministries to nod them through and for the foundation to be officially registered in the Warsaw courthouse.

However, with church and state at loggerheads over such issues as the removal of crucifixes from schools, the omens have not been good. Two meetings were cancelled last month for "technical reasons" and the hard-line Marxists have been tut-tutting about a plan that fosters private enterprise, agriculture, and not state dependency on the West and that gives the church an even stronger hold on farmers.

The Jaruzelski trip, which



General Jaruzelski (left) and Mr Walesa.

drew warm support from the Kremlin for the general's leadership, has in the view of the church, freed him to approve controversial projects and allows him to ignore the Marxist critics within the party.

The two outstanding issues in the negotiations about the fund both relate to government control. The government would like a representative on the board of the foundation or at least a nominated member of the Academy of Sciences. The church has refused.

The government also wants the right to participate jointly in decisions on technical problems. The church says that the government will be "consulted" but nothing more.

The law already gives the ministers of agriculture and finance substantial powers to dissolve or suspend the foundation.

Originally the church - more specifically the American Catholic Church - had hoped to raise about \$2bn. After trips by Polish fund-raisers and consultations with the Senate and House of Representatives, it is clear that the target should now be closer to \$1bn. "We need at least that", one church adviser said, "otherwise the Government will not take us seriously."

Mr Lech Walesa has already promised his Nobel peace prize award to the foundation and private donors like Yehudi Menuhin - who recently completed a concert tour in Poland - have handed over contributions. But the target still remains distant.

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THE ARTS

Martin Ritt, director of *Cross Creek*, which opens in London tomorrow, has been a fighter all his life; and he has certainly needed to be, as he explains to Joan Goodman

Winning way with handicaps

"Success in show business is 50 per cent talent and 50 per cent being able to take care of yourself in a street fight. If you can't do both, they eat you up", says Martin Ritt, the veteran director of such films as *Hud*, *The Long Hot Summer*, *Souther*, *The Spy Who Came From The Cold*, *Norma Rae*, *The Front* and now *Cross Creek*, which opens in London tomorrow.

Like his earlier films, *Cross Creek* has an underlying toughness despite its gentle, almost elegant tone. It is about the American writer Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, best known for such minor classics as *The Yearling* and *Jacob's Ladder*. In 1928 Rawlings was a sophisticated magazine editor in New York. Married and socially well-connected, she was entrenched in the cosmopolitan life of the city. Her own writing consisted of "Gothic romances" — third-rate Brontë sisters stuff, according to Ritt — which were never published. Maxwell Perkins, the legendary literary editor, discouraged these half-baked British pretensions and urged her to write about what she knew. With this in mind, she left her husband and her job and bought, sight unseen, a tumble-down house in an orange grove in a remote area of central Florida. The rural characters she lived among, and the stark environment she was forced to come to terms with, liberated her talent and infused Ritt's movie.

"The land and the people there — that's what the film is about", Ritt says. "I didn't realize it when I began. I went into the picture knowing it was a tough problem because I was dealing with the interior of an artist. Not much to show. I had to have enough confidence to sit there and let it happen as slowly as it had to happen. And gradually I realized I wasn't just dealing with the dilemma of a creative person or the courage of a woman who was changing her life in an age when women didn't do such things. The story was in the place itself and its impact on her."

Mary Steenburgen plays Rawlings and her talent glows under Ritt's direction. Known for his way with actors, he is the man who made Paul

Newman a star and turned Sally Field from *The Flying Nun* into an Oscar winner in *Norma Rae*. Of Steenburgen, Ritt says: "She had the guts to be a little cold, a little reserved. She captured the asperity of Rawlings at that time. Rawlings was a very complicated lady. There were hints of lesbianism, which we didn't use, and she drank a lot, which I used sparingly. She was the first person to insist her black maid be allowed to go to the local cinema. She was aware of social problems."

To say Ritt is aware of social problems is like saying Ronald Reagan does not like Communists. Ritt's political views have defined his life and his work. Brought up in grinding poverty on New York's lower East Side (he was born in the same hospital as his old friend and fellow gambler, Walter Matthau), Ritt abandoned a brief career as a schoolmaster to go into the theatre. The postwar years found him working first as an actor, then as a director, during what is now regarded as the Golden Age of television. Because he refused to name names, he sat out the McCarthy period on the blacklist. He remains remarkably unembittered by the experience.

"I knew what I was about quite early in life because, if I didn't know, the circumstances of the country let me know. I had already committed myself to the minority struggle. I was thrown out of work and I got by as a teacher of acting. I was thousands of dollars in debt to friends who helped me in those years. My wife had taken a job selling advertising space and that helped a lot. By the time I came out to California I was desperate."

Adele Ritt, a common sense, straightforward woman with a nice nature and a quick mind, has always played a crucial role in her husband's life and their life together. Of course she supported her husband's principles. "It wasn't so terrible for us", she remembers. "It was unpleasant, but there were people who were worse off. We didn't have any children then and I was able to work, but it left me with some insecurity. Even when

Marty went to California I insisted on holding on to our New York apartment. It was tiny and very low rent and I wasn't sure the blacklist was really over."

Ritt's legendary ability to handicap horses sprang from this era. Rumour had it that he supported himself betting on horses. "That really wasn't true", says Ritt. "I had a lot of time on my hands so I went to the track, but I never bet heavily. I was teaching acting at the time and did quite well out of it."

Ritt still enjoys gambling but, he claims, "I'm nothing like Matthau. Matthau will bet on the time of day. I'm much more careful. All the things I'm not in my artistic and political life. I am in my gambling. I'm a conservative gambler." Nevertheless, the Thursday night poker games with Ritt, Matthau and "a lot of old farts who have a little too much money and enjoy each other's company" are among Hollywood's remaining rituals. "See, I grew up in an atmosphere where one had to fight every day of one's life. I'd walk four blocks to Hebrew school through an Italian neighbourhood and the Italian kids would beat hell out of me every day. That part of me has hung over into my gambling and the way I fight the studios. The creative part is a whole different thing."

Despite his success, Ritt retains a jaundiced view of the film industry. His favourite term of abuse is "sentimental" and, though his films are deliberately and determinedly optimistic, his conversation takes account of darker realities. "I don't have as much fun as I did", he admits. "I don't have the stamina I used to have. I used to enjoy the fights because I knew finally I was going to win. Now I'm not so sure. I'm not so sure people at the studios wouldn't rather make *Porcky*. If you can't shame someone with the fact that they're going to make rubbish because the rubbish is going to make them a fortune of money, if they're actually proud of that fact, then you don't have a position."

"If I can make three or four more



Martin Ritt: determinedly optimistic

pictures, I'll be very pleased. The studios are less and less interested in doing serious material. It would be difficult to get a film like *The Front* made today." Ritt's memories of the blacklist formed the basis of *The Front*. In it an untalented opportunist (played by Woody Allen) peddles blacklisted writers' work as his own in return for a percentage. "There were many 'fronts' around", Ritt recalls, "some of whom have achieved positions of importance in Hollywood since. We have always been gallant enough to keep our mouths shut about who they are. What do you do if you're young and starting out and

your interests are serious? I don't know. It's almost impossible. Under the old rules, if you had a hit, they'd let you do what you wanted the next time out. Now they won't even do that. I had to work for half my salary on *Norma Rae* and one tenth of my salary on *Souther*. But, if you do good work, you'll always get work. All the actors want to work with you, everybody likes to look good." At 70 Martin Ritt is a busy man of surprising grace and ebullience. A member of Hollywood's Old Guard, he has never lost his taste or his principles or, as with *Cross Creek*, his talent for breaking new ground.

Theatre

The Comedy of Errors

Barbican

The RSC has repeatedly hit the jackpot with this play ever since Clifford Williams's supposedly stop-gap production of the early Sixties, but Adrian Noble's version (now transferred from Stratford) is the first I have seen that proves the often claimed kinship of stand-up comedy across the centuries. Here are the Plautine funny men kitted out in bowlers and clown boots and dumped on a music hall stage complete with piffling orchestra, and raising laughter to shake every peal in Henry Wrag's padlocked conservatory.

Among other things, that enables Mr Noble to get around Shakespeare's one besetting dramatic weakness: his incapacity for retrospective narrative. On come the clowns, followed by the doomed Aegeon (Joseph O'Connor), who proceeds to pour out his life story, a moment where attention usually wits. But not this time, as the chorus are ironically hanging on to his every word, and vigorously protesting when he threatens to cut it short. Likewise, in Luciana's mercilessly prolonged harangue to Antipholus, you could happily listen to her for ever as her captive audience happens to be

hanging upside down from a window. Those are two small details from a show that bubbles from start to finish with perfectly executed sight gags involving bicycling policemen, honking red noses, and crafty business with doors and step-ladders.

Thanks partly to the trick of reabsorbing principals into the chorus, and to the strict farcical choreography governing every movement, you have the impression of watching a stageful of master clowns, rather than comic actors. Nigel Hess's music, which deftly parodies the bounce and pathos of the old music hall before taking the whole text over into opera.

If all that suggests a trampoline for anonymously athletic performances, the impression is swiftly corrected by the wonderfully individualized company. Costume certainly helps, not least in the case of Zerkowansky's hilariously hobbled-skirted Adriana. But even the doubles are temperamentally contrasted. There is no mistaking Paul Greenwood's visiting Antipholus for Peter McNery's man-about-town; nor Henry Goodman's thick-skinned, pompous, and rather richly O'Callaghan, apt to nuzzle into his master in moments of crisis and blow his nose on his shirt.

Irving Wardle

Midday Sun

ICA

Big returns queues being rare on first nights, we have to assume that the hopeful line on Tuesday evening was drawn by the combination of names: the ICA's director John Ashford, Pete Brooks (Impact Theatre) and Geraldine Pilgrim (Hesitate and Demonstrate) from groups familiar here, and Caryl Churchill as writer leaving the performance-art mixture.

But, despite the planned exchange with Amsterdam's Micky Theatre and the presence of the Netherlands Cultural Attaché, this is an also-ran by ICA standards — or, misanthrope would say, even by ICA standards. Despite its Moroccan setting, that country's tourist authority has not contributed and it is not difficult to see why.

Morocco, as we see it in these protracted 70 minutes, is a place where trendy suburban couples seek excitement to revive extinguishing desire, where intelligent women develop love-hate relationships with "the exotic" and sunbathing is interrupted by a hairy local whining for cigarettes (inevitably Camels, symbolizing our ignorant wonder at exotica) or addresses in Europe. Though

spared Islamic slavery, these Western women are not encouraging examples. And, though superficially more sophisticated than the breezy empire-builders of Coward's song, the Westerners understand nothing. Leading with gilt-wrapped gifts a Moroccan intoxicated by a toy aeroplane, they fatally ignore culture-impact and think only of themselves.

Aided by a lovely set, Tom Donnellan's lighting and Graeme Miller's soundtrack, all in the best ICA tradition, these ideas are worked out with an unburied obscurity remarkable even at this address. Jose Nava takes an age to set up mikes for the visitors to mouth, repetitively and often inaudibly over the deafening sound, rationalizations of experience or just private concerns.

The fountain that yields a drinks tray for Richard Hawley, and disgorges the dusky Seta Indrani, like Venus from the shell, finally, like the pull of the race or nationality, swallows up the fully-robed Mr Nava, who then staggers out for a groggy, soggy curtain-call. I must add that this is part of the international *Faiground* "festival" promising more in the same style.

Anthony Masters

Dance

Hemispheres

Riverside

For her third London season, Melissa Fenley has brought a work created in collaboration with a composer, Anthony Davis, and premiered in New York last autumn as part of the New Wave festival at Brooklyn Academy of Music. The sleeve notes on the record of the music indicate that Davis had African legends in mind, and his score for a small group of players on a larger variety of instruments adopts many influences, ranging from Stravinsky to a jam session.

Hitherto, Fenley has danced alone in London, performing works created or adapted for solo presentation, but in *Hemispheres* she has two other dancers, both women who have achieved a stamina, strength and speed comparable to her own. Those qualities, with which Fenley startled us in her first London programme, are dominant in the first section of the new work, subtitled "Beyond Borders", but nowadays Fenley seems less aggressive in choreography and performance — or is it just that we have grown accustomed to her pace?

For me, however, the most rewarding part of *Hemispheres* is the third of four sections, "Eidetic Body". The subtitle refers (my dictionary tells me) to visual imagery retained in the memory and readily reproducible with great accuracy and in great detail. It is a good definition of much of a dancer's work, but particularly apposite in the long section, given in silence, where Fenley dances with Silvia Martins.

Martins, a little taller and slimmer than Fenley, performs the same movements (simultaneously or subsequently) with a different emphasis, exemplified by the arms which she uses less angularly, with a straighter line or gentler curve. There is much of this transfer or relationship of movement throughout the work, as you would expect, but the characteristic, choreographic style is so complex that, when three of them are moving at speed, the exact imagery becomes more difficult to remember, or even to see. Fenley already uses head, arms, torso, legs in separate rhythms and directions; add floor patterns and multiply by three, and the result is full of interest but quite demanding to watch.

John Percival

Concert

ECO/Tate

Barbican

Anything that stimulates a musician to think freshly about the familiar is laudable. Lately the English Chamber Orchestra have had the good fortune of finding themselves in the charge of some of the liveliest minds in the business. Most recently, Roger Norrington transformed the normally smooth and dainty, rather complacent sound of the orchestra into something much more alive for a Radio 3 recording of Handel's *Radamisto*.

Jeffery Tate is more of a conventionalist, yet he evidently shares Norrington's ability to inject a positive attitude into his players. From the first chord of the overture to *Die Zauberflöte*, which opened this concert in the ECO's "Mozart in May" series, it was obvious that the performance was going to be a cut above the average. Unanimity of ensemble was outstandingly clean, and Mr Tate clearly had the measure of the overture's dramatic and symphonic pace.

What impressed most, though, was the care he took in balancing the woodwind, both here and in the more darkly

impressive Symphony No. 40. Rarely have I heard Mozart's orchestral colours sound so vivid. For once, the addition of clarinets made a huge impact, wrenching the texture with their suspensions in the slow movement, and adding a crispness and a languorous eloquence wherever those things were needed. But everybody seemed equally caught up in the fever of these revelations.

I had never before thought of Peter Donohoe as a Mozartian, and that negative hunch seemed to be confirmed by his reading of the D major Piano Concerto, K. 537, admittedly not Mozart at his most profound. Donohoe's timidity and prettiness might have worked had been able to reveal substance, real or imagined, beneath the surface, but he simply could not.

Stephen Pettitt

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Pop music

The Cocteau Twins

Festival Hall

Given their shy demeanour and self-deprecating stage assessments you would hardly have believed that the Cocteau Twins were climbing a major tour in a prestige venue. But this intriguing little band are harder to pin down than an exotic butterfly. Cocteau music, an effervescent whirling of abstract grandeur, is provided by the guitarist Robin Guthrie with the assistance of his pre-recorded tapes and effects, and by the bassist Simon Raymonde, the solitary source of live rhythm: in the Twins' case rhythm even of the conventional type comes in two speeds, stately and very stately.

The vocalist, Elizabeth Fraser, is undoubtedly one of the most extraordinary performers working within pop. Her vocal range is less surprising than her intense delivery, with every note wrenched from some tortured recess of her being and punctuated by her fierce breast-beating. Stranger still, Fraser

often gives the impression of singing in an entirely foreign language.

Given the tone of Cocteau songs, atmospheres redolent of grail-bearing knights and misty fairy-tale nightmares, the total effect of the trio is extremely unsettling. They chose a selection from their more ponderous ballads and black lullabies. The jagged spiralling descent of "The Spangle Maker" or "When Mama Was a Moth" exemplified the qualities of sensuality and danger while "Musette and Drums" was like an other-worldly funeral march. The Cocteau can be so suffocating on occasion that the flesher structures of "Sugar Hiccup" and "Pearly Dewdrops" were received like blasts of fresh air.

Strangely, the trio felt this one of their worst concerts. The mild contempts between the hall and the crowd, who wanted to stand, prevented cohesion. But in the Cocteau Twins' rarefied spirit-world these minor mortal failings are of little consequence.

Max Bell



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Television

Blinding potential of a boring beam

Lasers were once only associated with the light from Superman's eyeballs and were considered to be, like the flying crusader himself, a solution looking for a problem, but, as last night's Q.E.D. (BBC 1) documented in remorseless detail, these stimulating particles have now become as common as knives or lengths of string, and are used for equally mundane purposes. They can, for example, be employed for welding metal, for creating video-games, for obliterating tattoos or for burning pieces of paper at a distance. They can also be used in removing tumours of the tongue (this

sequence was not pleasant to watch), for curing people's eye problems or blinding them altogether.

The enthusiasts who are interested in old steam engines or model cars will soon learn to love the laser also, but its attraction for the majority of the population is questionable. This documentary proved that it was a necessary and useful instrument but it demonstrated that, like the computer, it is also very boring. "Whatever next?" Anthony Clare asked in what was apparently a wry fashion — but does anyone really want to know?

Last night's Visions (Channel 4) marked the return of this enterprising series, which for some reason has in the past gone unremarked by the television critics. The first programme was concerned with the work of two female film directors, Wendy Toye and Sally Potter, their conjunction suggested that the most significant thing about them was their sex, when no doubt they themselves would argue that their most important quality lies in their skill as directors. Certainly their work had very few common elements — not nearly enough to prove, or even to suggest, that film-making by

women is qualitatively different from that by men.

In fact their work was almost antithetical — Wendy Toye's films were essentially entertainments which made their points (if that is the word) elegantly and unobtrusively; Sally Potter's films were much more mannered and consequently more difficult. Sally Potter also seemed more willing to make the feminist case. This was in any event a most intriguing programme, which brought together two disparate talents — even if, in the end, they agreed only to disagree.

Peter Ackroyd

Opera

La Bohème

New Theatre, Cardiff

In Scotland, Tony Palmer has just offered us a *Turandot* rewritten as a Puccini autobiography. A forthcoming film promises Puccini "in search of the immortal Bohemian". Quite what Lucian Pini's production of *La Bohème* for Welsh National Opera might have suggested must remain uncertain since his conception "proved impossible to realize" — possibly a euphemism for a cautious early clamp-down by management of the kind that we critics, used to being wise after the event, often suggest should have taken place before some disaster occurred.

In place of Pini's, Welsh National Opera offered a confection by Göran Jarvæll (the completion of whose *Ring* for this company has now been pushed, like that of English National Opera, far into the future), which was eminently realizable but nonetheless characterful and sharply observed. His Bohemian world is a grey, pallid affair: no wonder everyone is frozen when the attic has a massive skylight which allows all the heat to escape. Rodolfo has to warm his own hands before lamenting that Mimi's are cold. There is no colour either in Michael Yeagan's design for the Café Momus, nicely portrayed as if from the inside looking out.

No, the colour here comes from inside the characters, who from the first frenetic scene of



Touching innocence: Helen Field's Mimi with John Fowler's Rodolfo

artistic creation are self-obsessed, self-dramatizing, and desperately uncertain inhabitants of a decaying world. The only things that give conviction to their lives are for Rodolfo love and for Marcello entanglement. Jarvæll characterizes decisive moments with decisive gestures: the first Mimi-Rodolfo scene is marvelously done with sudden sure, briefly passionate outstretched arms which collapse into nervous movements.

Helen Field's affecting Mimi cannot quite bear the weight given to the character: she is a nice girl, touching, innocent, and her clear *voix* manages to convey a direct, occasionally piercing truth. But the sound is never really as luminous as

Puccini's orchestra suggests it must be, nor is the character as ambiguous as it could be. Vocally, however, the performance works better than John Fowler's subdued Rodolfo, well shaped when it does not have to compete with orchestra as at the start of the fourth act, but all too often swamped by instrumental sound.

Donald Maxwell's Marcello, splendidly sturdy and clear, is the best of the Bohemians, though there is good support from Matthew Best and Nicholas Fowell. Mimi's death, perceived by each in turn and bottled up in anguished silence, is powerfully done; the final image is that of a huddle of hopeless passion around her inert body.

He has an ally in the pit. Tomasz Bugaj needs to do a bit of sorting out in tempi, phrasing and ensemble work; but his direction, and the always pleasing chamber playing of the Warsaw Sinfonietta, emphasize the fact that the staging really does not have to work quite so hard to distract our attention.

Hilary Finch

Cosi fan tutte

Theatre Royal, Brighton

The Warsaw Chamber Opera's robust energy and conviction, and a certain disarming naivete, worked rather well for them in Moniuszko's *Halka*; but *Cosi*, of course, cannot live by these qualities alone. In choosing to put itself to this most arduous of tests, the company is trying so hard that it appears, paradoxically, to have rather less confidence in its ability to perform Mozart and, indeed, in Mozart himself.

First of all, Jitka Stokalska, directing, employs the services of two pairs of mime artists to

mop and mow in grotesque dumb shows, every so often, during an orchestral introduction or scene-change. Then he sets the work within its own neo-Palladian proscenium arch, with pleasantly scenic hanging backdrop panels, and summons a lolly-like figure with a stick to command silence before each act.

It all might work as a nicely congruous ambience for a travelling troupe, were it not that the restless stage business and the one-dimensional comic scale destroy any proportion or true sense of genre that might have been created, and both lull and dissipate some not inconsiderable musical potential.

At times like something from

Gilbert and Sullivan, at times more like *La Cenerentola*, everyone seems to want to be in on everyone else's act. So a Dorabella (Lidia Juraneck) tries to upstage Fiordiligi all the way through "Come scoglio", so that it is a wonder that Ewa Ignatowicz, pure of voice but over-languid, gets through it as well as she does. And, equally irritatingly, Guglielmo (Jan Wolanski) has to engage Don Alfonso while Ferrando (Kazimierz Myrski) stretches his light tenor aura around the mould of "Un aura amorosa".

Krzyszyna Kolakowska's more instinctive Despina is something of a relief; and in a production so coyly and inge-

BOOKS

A book in the life of a real writer

What's the matter with Peter Nichols? I mean, why's he so upset? One can understand the rehearsal of *Poppy*, leading to the announcement that he would never again write for the theatre. One can understand it as an *outrage*. What's hard to follow is the repeated string of grievances - as if the playwright Nichols had a very raw deal indeed. In the preface to this autobiography he's at it again. The book, he tells us, received a generous advance ("far more generous than any given to me for a play"); it has been a pleasure to write.

No vainglorious director re-wrote it, no manager talked about *Bums on Seats* or *last trains* no *musical* actors told me it wouldn't stretch them or *thanked me for what they called a "bitch"*.

There's an ungraciousness about all this, coming from such a successful writer. Have all his directors been vainglorious and all his actors ungrateful? Has he had such bad luck? Or are there other reasons behind the loss of vocation, a loss so complete that, in explaining why he wanted to write this autobiography, he says: "Most of all, I longed to be a real writer not just a provider of scripts for directors... Here, you will observe, Nichols is having it both ways. If he insists that his text is his and unalterable, fine; that is to say - I am the writer, so hands off. But if he says, unfortunately I'm not yet a real writer, then he is asking for interference."

The truth is that not all directors are vainglorious when they talk of rewriting and cutting texts. Indeed there are many occasions when one wishes they did more editorial work. The difference between real and unreal writer is the difference between Pinter and Shaffer, as an extract from the Peter Hall diaries suggestively illustrates:

Shaffer describes the process we are going through with *Amadeus* as carving out a play with actors. "It must be very strange

James Fenton reviews the autobiography of Peter Nichols

FEELING YOU'RE BEHIND
By Peter Nichols
Weidenfeld & Nicholson, £10.95

For you," he says, "evolving a text with actors like this. You are used to a firm, hard, finished text like *Hamlet*. Peter must have made for more money, be far more successful in a material sense, than Harold. Yet I sometimes think that in Peter's eyes Harold is the dramatist. I happened to have dinner tonight with Pinter. "You couldn't cut my plays like that," he said. "They are not long enough to start with. They would disappear."

The subtext in this is as follows. Shaffer: "You don't think I'm a real writer, do you? Not like Pinter. Hall: "Maybe not, but what a lot of moulted you generate..." Pinter: "Don't worry about me, mate, I know what I'm doing." Certainly it is hard to imagine Harold Pinter announcing, at this stage in his career, that he would like to become a real writer - but then very few playwrights have been able to match Pinter's success at managing their own careers - not in the sense of publicity, in the sense of planning, genuine, artistic self-management. The key to such planning is partly to know what you have achieved, in order to know when to move on to the next project, and partly to have the confidence to move from successful A to not-yet-successful B.

Nichols, who has, as he puts it, "trotted out" his life in around 20 plays for stage and television, is in the habit of using friends and family in such thin disguise that some only their names have been changed. So is not turning autobiographer for the first time. Indeed there are moments in this book when, needing a bit of

dialogue, he reaches for the appropriate play and merely quotes himself. Dialogue is his strength. A natural gift for mimicry combined with a long self-training at keeping a journal, produce some marvellous comic portraits through speech habits alone. As for instance this teacher on a school trip to the Isle of Wight:

I've noticed - in fact, Mister Nichawls has noticed too, haven't you Mister Nichawls? - that someone has been tearing flowers from poppy's petals and stitching them. On the paths. It's not, Necessary. The poet Keats apparently said "A thing of beauty is a joy forever". A Joy Forever, Glynnis Runt, busy talking! And around the island you will see on the rubbish bins:

Let it not be said unto your shame

That all was beauty here until you came.

Until you came, Allan Dye, Markly staring. At the ceiling...

To be able to conjure up with such economy the character of the teacher the behaviour of the group and the Isle of Wight itself, as Nichols does in this chapter, is a gift most writers would envy.

But there are other ways in which this book is most peculiar and unsatisfactory. Nichols has very little interest in politics Nichols is surprisingly prone to going off the deep end, to the detriment of his writing:

...as soon as they'd dropped the atomic bomb, the Americans betrayed every promise they'd made. Churchill and Roosevelt had said one thing but Truman did another. Like a landlord from Dickens, they made us pay every penny of our debts and, having robbed us, knocked us down and left us bleeding.

This little expostulation jumps out at us from nowhere. It's not a part of a sustained argument. It's like a late-night outburst in a saloon bar. When the author leaves home for military service in pre-independence India, a kind of political self-pity overwhelms him. On the one hand, he freely admits to having taken no interest in



Born 31 July 1927. A Day in the Death of Joe Egg, 1967. The National Health, 1969. Privates on Parade, 1977. Passion Play, 1980...

the place - never talked to Indians, never ate an Indian meal in the course of a year there, never paid much attention to what was going on. On the other hand, this is not his fault. It's the fault of the authorities.

No one had spared five minutes to tell us why we were in Bengal. No more I suppose, then they'd said anything to those dazed squaddies in Palestine, Cyprus, Malaya, Korea, Vietnam, Algeria, the Falklands. Who do our gallant lads think they're doing in Belfast?

When, at the end of the Indian section, Nichols concludes "At least I'd learnt that empires were a bad idea," one resents being asked to concede that the guy has learnt anything at all. Of 1956 he tells us that "neither the invasion of Hungary nor the British invasion of Suez meant much to me, they only confirmed what I knew about monolithic communism and last-ditch imperialism. My memories of the Egyptians were of stolen pens and whiting on my shoes." This is typical of Nichols's habit of writing about a period he's lived through as if disappointed in his own role at the time. It would be nice to furnish some anecdotes about the impact of great events on the budding writer. But there was no impact. So he affects to have been completely *au fait* with communism and imperialism all along. But he can't keep up the act and the next paragraph begins: "I should have been more upset and shared the general unrest that led to the staging of *Look Back in Anger*." Why should he have been?

Because - and this is the theme of the book, although not a theme which has been properly expressed and explored - he is terribly afraid of having missed out. He should have been at the first night, and seen the *Writing on the Wall*. He should have been to university (the vivid Malaysian chapter is called "My University"). He should have lost his virginity (and how he goes on about it) much earlier. He should have had much more sex. Up to the age of 40 he was living in "total obscurity" (yet he was writing television plays). Then he should have become a real writer.

But he is a real writer. What's he going on about?

The deepest and darkest of moles in a hole

Woodrow Wyatt

PRINCE OF SPIES
Henri le Caron
By J. A. Cole
Faber, £8.95

I had never heard of Major le Caron, or Thomas Beach, as he began and finished his life. He caused a sensation when he turned up to give evidence at the Parnell Commission:

"On Tuesday morning, the 5th February 1889, the curtain was rung up, and throwing aside the mask for ever, I stepped into the witness-box and came out in my true colours, as an Englishman, proud of his country and in no sense ashamed of his record in his service."

He was 47. For over 20 years he had been accepted as a member of the Fenian Brotherhood in the USA, and had reported accurately and continuously on their activities to the British authorities. He used the name of Henri le Caron which he had adopted when he joined the 8th Pennsylvania Reserves in 1861 to fight for the North in the Civil War.

He was born in Colchester of solidly English parents. Unable to settle down to education or apprenticeship in England, he went to Paris for two years before leaving for America with his new French name.

From Mr Cole's fascinating account le Caron must have been the coolest, and around the bravest, spy in the history of espionage. Once or twice he was suspected but bluffed his way through, claiming he was a victim of the paranoia. Fenians had about each other. He was trusted in their highest councils until the end.

As soon as the Civil War was over le Caron became a doctor. He was paid modestly for his spying: the money was not so important to him as the adventure of living a secret life and helping his country.

It was remarkable that le Caron, a tea-totaller, was able to roll back in friendship with the drink-drinking Irish. The Fenians got the more they told him and the less he told them. He learned from them everything they knew about help from American sympathizers, intended explosions, and the sending of arms to Ireland. Philby and Maclean were amateurs compared to le Caron.

In 1881 le Caron told his Fenian friends he was going to Europe for his health, as a cover for some spying he intended on Fenian activities in Paris. There he met the wife of an Irish M.P., A. M. Sullivan. Through her husband he met Parnell to whom he talked for three-quarters of an hour.

Parnell said to him, "Doctor, I have long ceased to believe that anything but the force of arms will ever bring about the redemption of Ireland." They discussed how the revolution could be organized. Trusting le Caron as a Fenian, Parnell revealed to him that he was in favour of illegal extra-parliamentary action, something he steadfastly denied in public. le Caron hurried off to report his conversation to a senior civil servant, Robert Anderson, who today would be known as his controller. If Anderson had given him away le Caron would have been murdered.

It was le Caron's unexpected evidence, given against his controller's orders, that prevented the Commission giving Parnell a clean bill on the accusation of incitement to violence. The Commission believed the spy with his scrupulous accuracy, detailed notes, and compendious memory. From Mr Cole's description of him they were right to do so.

le Caron, whose cover blown, lived his remaining five years under police protection, dying of peritonitis at Tregunter Road, near the Boltons. Throughout his dangerous life he was happily married to a Virginian girl who romantically helped him escape from Confederate soldiers who had taken him prisoner. After le Caron's death she and her family returned to America leaving another question mark. Had le Caron left them poor or prosperous?

The book is cleverly presented and well written. It is more exciting and strange than even the best spy novels, and not only because it is true.

The new strain in Spain

Richard Wigg

SPAIN
Change of a Nation
By Robert Graham
Michael Joseph, £14.95

This is an excellent book for anyone who wants to catch up on today's realities in Spain, and is tired of films about Carmen and television marathons on the Civil War.

For the price of a good meal for two in a Madrid restaurant Mr Graham offers a wealth of reliable information, in a country where low productivity characterizes information-gathering, accompanied by sharp but fair comment.

The title tellingly conveys his message: the extent of the change that has come over one of Europe's oldest, but most recalcitrant nations during the past 30 years. He paints it "warts and all", recalling the seamy and mediocre years of the Franco regime before the spectacular economic boom caused the rest of Europe to look once again at Spain.

"Spanish commercial law was wholly unprepared to cope with a modern financial system, planning, saving, covering key aspects of inter-company dealing, holding companies, and loans to directors". Mr Graham, a lawyer before becoming a journalist, writes of that boom, though he fairly notes a certain social mobility.

The best of the book concerns the role of Spain's seven biggest private banks in the economic development. He gives lively portraits of the men who head them, derived from knowing them personally.

Bringing out one of his main conclusions about contemporary Spain - the continuing importance of strong personalities - he finds that the bankers' personal rivalries prevented them, however, becoming a "super-government" in Madrid. It was similarly the personality of Señor Felipe Gonzalez that won the 10 million votes, he suggests, giving the Socialist party power only seven years after the dictator's death.

Well argued criticisms of the economic boom provide indeed a good background to judge the socialists' attempts to modernize the country. His own judgement is that they will be there battling away for the rest of the decade.

The role of King Juan Carlos in the transition, culminating in saving democracy almost single-handedly against the 1981 right-wing officers' coup attempt, highlights a valuable account of the little known 44-year-long gap before the Spanish Bourbons returned. One error, Alfonso, the youngest brother of Don Juan Carlos killed himself. Mr Graham writes, in the future King's presence while playing with a gun in 1956. The tragedy was more painful than that: it was Don Juan Carlos, then aged 16, home from Saragossa Military Academy, where he had been given the revolver, who was loading the weapon when it accidentally went off.

Over copious draughts of wine a peasant of the Veneto unfolds to the narrator of *The Princes of Q* a strange Gothick tale of malice and vengeance. It is immediately alarming and gripping: a local legend of wickedness, pride, unleashed fury made flesh and blood. Dank passages are stylishly explored, immense doors crack open upon fearful secrets. Too much! Until in the next section of the novel, through discovered letters, the author moves from legend into history offering an entirely new gloss on the events as they occurred. In the final section, with quite dazzling skill, Virginia Moriconi turns to a conversation among the surviving members of a doomed family, all unattributed, in which each single voice is clearly discernible. To reveal details of the subtle and ingenious plot would be to cheat potential readers. The reviewer's heart leaps up when he (or she) beholds the Duckworth imprint: this outstanding novel explores the very nature of fiction, folk-tale, history and plain fact without ever forgetting the pain and passions of the characters, how little and how much they understand of each other. The virtuosity of the prose and the author's splendidly realized ambition place this novel on a shelf to be pleasantly revisited.

Mourners Below by James Purdy, whose work is extravagantly praised by all manner of luminaries on the dust jacket, is a neatly expounded story about very quirky people. With the exception of a mercifully sane housekeeper, all the characters are obsessed or possessed or haunted. Duane Bledsoe, a vapid youth living with his ineffectual and withdrawn father, has grown up in the shadow of his older step-brothers. Now that they have become heroes, having been blown up in Hitler's war, their influence is

Gothick pains and ghastly passions

FICTION

Stuart Evans

THE PRINCES OF Q.
By Virginia Moriconi
Duckworth, £8.95

MOURNERS BELOW
By James Purdy
Peter Owen, £8.95

PRESENT TIMES
By David Storey
Cape, £8.95

very quirky people. With the exception of a mercifully sane housekeeper, all the characters are obsessed or possessed or haunted. Duane Bledsoe, a vapid youth living with his ineffectual and withdrawn father, has grown up in the shadow of his older step-brothers. Now that they have become heroes, having been blown up in Hitler's war, their influence is

Leaping clear across four centuries to explore our old prison walls

The Abyss is at once absence of knowledge, and knowledge itself: a novel about the unquenchable human desire to "explore the confines of this our prison". Sweeping searchlights of prose scan 16th century Europe, crisscrossing religious revolt, political tyranny, intellectual turmoil, and Zen, a young polymath of his times, baseborn, "roaming the world no more remarked than an insect on the pages of a psalter". (Insects like this destroyed them, of course.)

We are not in the visible past - defined, by Henry James, as two generations ago - of *Fires*, *A Coin of Nine Hands*, or *Coup de Grâce*, nor in the antique land of Hadrian, whose imagined *Memoirs* were, for most English readers, their first experience of Marguerite Yourcenar's extraordinary way with

scholarly, and infinitely more provincial in scope than Madame Yourcenar should not withdraw too soon. Her treatment is deliberate: a weighted, lucid build-up of detail and sensation designed to transmit intellectual as well as physical tension - terror is not too strong a term - in a century which leapt the abyss between what we call "medieval" and "modern" systems of thinking.

From Flanders along the highroads of France, Spain, the German States, and the Levant, as physician and as philosopher, Zeno seeks to reconcile scholasticism with reaction against it: "the notion of self", body and soul shackled in time and space. In the universality of her ideas, and in authenticity of characterization and event, Madame Yourcenar demonstrates - at a bound - that she is free in both.

The Abyss makes the head spin a bit. Readers inclined to flinch from grand, somewhat extravagant renderings of a period beloved by "historical" novelists much less serious, less

scholarly, and infinitely more provincial in scope than Madame Yourcenar should not withdraw too soon. Her treatment is deliberate: a weighted, lucid build-up of detail and sensation designed to transmit intellectual as well as physical tension - terror is not too strong a term - in a century which leapt the abyss between what we call "medieval" and "modern" systems of thinking.

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Last Man of Belles Lettres

Philip Howard

EDMUND GOSSE
A Literary Landscape
By Ann Thwaite
Secker & Warburg, £15

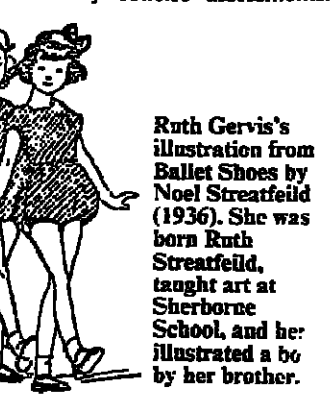
Literary criticism is interesting, and probably even useful work. But can you think of anybody practising the trade today who will be mainly about his or her literary criticism? Gosse was the last man of letters in a social-literary world that has vanished.

What he hoped to be famous for was his poetry, which was sensual and elegant, but essentially minor. He wanted to be taken seriously as a scholar. But his genius for inaccuracy made this impossible after the savage scandal of his *Clark Lectures* at Trinity, Cambridge. Today he is remembered for *Father and Son*, the masterpiece about his war of independence from his fanatical, evangelical Plymouth Brother father and as the grand old back of literary criticism, who never missed a deadline.

Ann Thwaite has made an absorbing book out of this unfashionable material, by not shirking blots and all. Gosse had many unscholarly faults, in addition to the inaccuracies. He was a dilettante, a log-roller, a touchy trimmer who lapped up adulation as a fat cat laps sardines, who kept envious claws in his velvet paws.

Mrs Thwaite has turned over paper stacks of unpublished material from Gosse's too prolific pen. She deals sympathetically and persuasively with the sleeping homosexuality (common property of the Victorian literary world), the sexual tension - terror is not too strong a term - in a century which leapt the abyss between what we call "medieval" and "modern" systems of thinking.

From Flanders along the highroads of France, Spain, the German States, and the Levant, as physician and as philosopher, Zeno seeks to reconcile scholasticism with reaction against it: "the notion of self", body and soul shackled in time and space. In the universality of her ideas, and in authenticity of characterization and event, Madame Yourcenar demonstrates - at a bound - that she is free in both.



Go to work on a Jane Austen, dear

Fiona MacCarthy

LETTERS TO ALICE ON FIRST READING JANE AUSTEN

By Fay Weldon
Michael Joseph/Rainbird, £8.95

Fay Weldon's latest heroine, in the safe old sense of someone central to the action, around whom a lot goes on, is Alice, an eighteen-year-old student and a spike-head and niece to... On dear, here, as is frequent with Fay Weldon, we are already into troubled waters for, as she keeps telling Women Writers' Groups so gnomically, reality is not precisely to be confused with fiction: there are literary truths and there are home truths; the writer is not the person, yet both natures are true. So what, for heaven's sake, are we to make of letters from a lady of an age to conjure with the name of Bowley, evidently a woman novelist of some renown, on a tour of Australia whence she writes these letters in the intervals of giving lots of literary lectures and where she is composing a new novel *Amygdala*?

Shock-headed Alice, like so many members of the Struwelpeter generation we know and love and, in this context, so despair of, finds the novels of Jane Austen boring, petty and irrelevant. Aunt Fay sees it as her duty to enlighten little Alice (This book is very certain of the place of aunts in life). Not for nothing has she been in advertising: in this series of 16 wise and wonderfully funny admonitory letters, she mounts a great Jane Austen sales campaign, aimed at the teenage market which has so far been recalcitrant but where the potential, once tapped, may yield vast profits. She approaches Jane Austen from all saleable directions, social-historic, feminist and literary, explaining and cajoling, bullying and promising.

E. M. Forster, in dear old *Aspects of the Novel*, has a vision of the company of English novelists all seated together in a circular room, a sort of British Museum reading room, hushed and rather dowdy, writing novels simultaneously. Fay Weldon paints an equally endearing picture of the novel-writers' city, the glorious extraordinary City of Invention, a mixture of literary Portmerion, around which the tourist readers go on bus rides. The critics, the poor critics, are the bus drivers.

Looming inescapably over all the houses, as in French chateau towns, is the great Castle Shakespeare. Of the buildings it

surmounts, some are sound and bourgeois houses, built by Galsworthy or Melville, set in Avenues and Closets. Some are relatively ramshackle. Some (like *Lark Rise to Candleford*) look somehow accidental. One is *The Young Visiters*. Some of course are brothels. Jane Austen has her building in the city - on a grassy and secluded plot, in a part of town more decorous than she would perhaps ideally have chosen - but what about Fay Weldon? Since, as author of this game, she is not allowed to play it I will choose a building for her, and it shall be, I think, a kind of Gaudi cottage, like the little houses he built in Barcelona, play-houses in a park, at first sight winsome. But deeper, for the nearer one approaches, the more sophisticated and disquieting they prove.

At the beginning of this novel little Alice is embarking on her own book, to call *The Well of Loneliness* ("I do quite like your title", writes Aunt Fay quite benignly, "but I think someone has already used it. Do check with your tutor"), and is evidently all set to leave her boy-friend for the superior attractions of the married Marxist vegetarian Professor of Economics. The Agony Aunt ladies add advice from the sackful of brown rice she keeps by her for the purpose. By the end of the story Alice has completed the novel, retitled *The Wife's Revenge*, which sells in millions, and abandoned the vegetarian professor for a fashionably celibate amorous relationship with the professor's (also Marxist?) wife. Oh, and she has also gone from green hair back to mouse hair. The hair is nothing, you see, if not dynamic. The firm trust that novels put the two-and-twos of life together, and the belief that books can actually change us, have the power to improve us, animate this work; which is a little book, a slim thing, but in its way I think Fay Weldon's most important yet.

Are you sitting comfortably? Nearly all you need to know about kiddies' books

CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

THE OXFORD COMPANION TO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
By Humphrey Carpenter and Mari Prichard
Oxford, £15

Mari Prichard and her husband, Humphrey Carpenter, woke up one morning and found themselves editing a guide to children's literature. The ground-plan for the project had been drawn up by Iona and Peter Opie, with whose blessing it was handed over to the Carpenters late in the nineteen seventies.

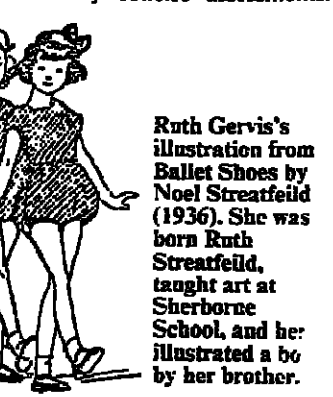
An ambitious plan it was. It aimed to trace not only the broad "literary" tradition in children's books but also the multifarious, and often obscure, cultural phenomena that are linked in it: from evangelical tracts to pantomimes, and *A was an Archer to Grange Hill*. The ephemeral nature of so much of this material, and the lack of any consistent or reliable scholarship in the subject do not make the drudging lexicographer's life any easier. (I speak with feeling, since I have been trying sporadically to do a very similar job for the last 10 years.)

The Carpenters however have hammered away at their construction with cheerful industry. They have denied themselves the luxury of under-

taking a lot of original research choosing rather to make judicious use of existing secondary sources, however patchy, and then to read widely and enthusiastically in the children's books themselves. The result is



an intricately patterned mosaic of descriptive articles, biographies, plot-summaries, and disquisitions on social background, frequently illuminated by the authors' fresh and shrewdly concise assessments.



"Be entertaining" the Opies had said - and the Carpenters have followed the injunction. But the panache of their editing does not altogether hide the inescapable difficulties implicit in this first major attempt to codify the subject. Their treatment of illustrators, for instance, is often casual to the point of indifference. (They don't even give an entry for J. D. Batten, whose amusing "Caution to Readers" they choose as a visual epigraph to the book.)

But to be cavalier is surely to err in the right direction. As the Carpenters themselves disclose, children's literature has suffered too much too often from those puritans who have probed their tiny fingers into its evanescent jclights.

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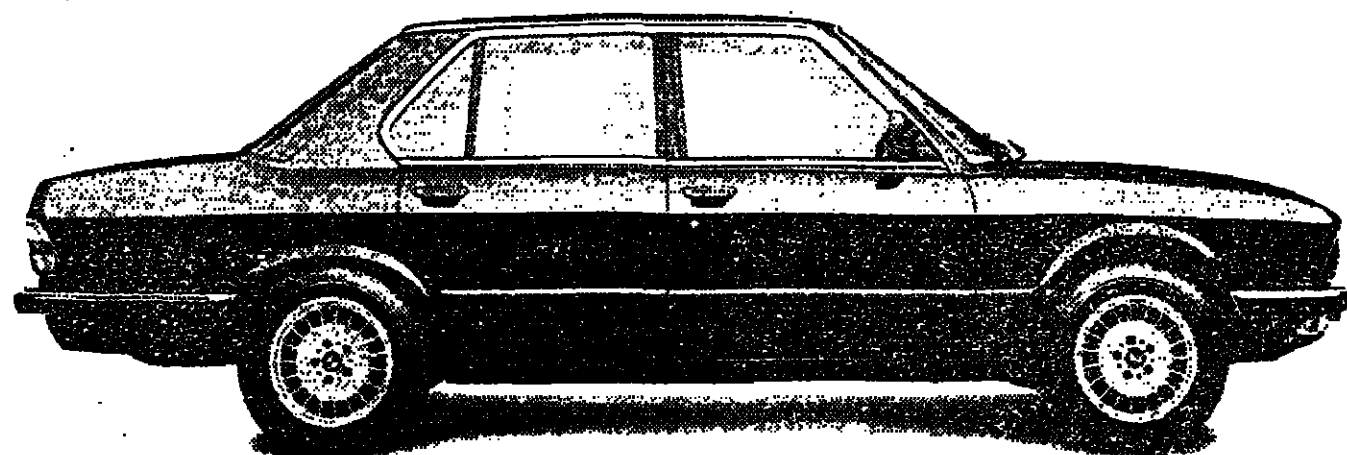
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THE TIMES DIARY

Unhealthy precedent

A 10 per cent Bupa discount offer to Tory Party members, advertised in the latest issue of *Conservative Newsline*, was yesterday likened by Michael Meacher, Shadow Cabinet spokesman on health, to the "NUM offering cut-price coal to Labour Party members". The offer appears alongside a feature extolling the virtues of private medicine. "It is

BUPA is offering 10% discount to members of the Conservative Party

the first time I have heard of special facilities for political affiliation. It is a dangerous precedent," said Meacher. When back in office, he said, Labour might be tempted to retaliate by reducing NHS prescriptions for Labour supporters - "but that would be extremely divisive and ill-advised". Yesterday Bupa said it would gladly offer the same terms to Labour members through the *Labour Weekly* - but it had never been approached.

● Quote from a speaker at a recent annual conference of the film and broadcasting union, ACTT: "TV-am is an equal opportunity employer; it treats everyone disgustingly."

Resorts full

Eddie Shah, whose clash with the NGA last year brought mass pickets to his Warrington works, is expanding his freestheet newspaper business to holiday-beach reading. His first venture into paperback publishing is based on the cunning idea of setting his novels against the holiday resorts frequented by millions of package-holiday Britons - Majorca, Benidorm, Torremolinos and Tenerife. Hotels, restaurants, bars, beaches and even barmen feature under their own name. Equally cunning is the choice of publishing house - the small Maclean Dubois literary agency in Edinburgh, far enough from London, I am told, to ensure that his idea will not be stolen.

Come clean

I have been invited by the British Film Institute on Monday to preview a cartoon called *Council Matters*, featuring Freda the cleaner who "takes the lid off the Town Hall", to show the value of council services and the threat of privatization. Perhaps Freda could take the lid off the British Film Institute to find out why it is sponsoring a film made for Sheffield City Council - HQ of the "Socialist Republic of South Yorkshire" - by a women's collective in Leeds.

BARRY FANTONI



'Actually I'm sponsored by the Russian Olympic Committee'

Labour gain

Raffle tickets for the Chalk Farm Labour Party are selling like hot cakes at the GLC. Prizes are: First, £100; Second, a subscription to the *New Statesman*; third, a Save the World T-shirt; fourth, lunch with Frank Dobson MP at the House of Commons; fifth, a meal for two at the Golden Grill; sixth, six tickets for *On The Spot* at the Albery Theatre; seventh, a copy of *The Political Writings of William Morris*; eighth, a copy of *The Writings of Konstantin Chernenko* (donated by Robert Maxwell); and a booby prize: drinks for one with Camden Councillor Richard Stein, offered with the caveat "make sure he pays".

● Pete Murray, the DJ sacked by Radio 2 last year amid claims that his style was "outdated", is to host LBC's nightly phone-in, following Carol Thatcher, Fiona Richmond, Jess Yates *et al.* "I have missed radio," he says. "It has part of my life for so long." Indeed, The BBC dropped him after 25 years.

Golden tones

The chief PR man for De Beers in London is Byron Ousey. As his name suggests, he combines mellifluous tones with absolute conviction. Last year he tried to persuade a journalist that De Beers had no connexion with Mining and Technical Services (Mats), the company which employs the British miners taken hostage in Angola. The same journalist telephoned Mats this week with questions about their kidnapped employees. Who answered the phone? Byron Ousey.

PHS

David Hewson on Brittan's surprise boost for the TV independents

Limehouse takes on Lime Grove



Leon Brittan: giving the independents direct access to satellite broadcasting. Right, the one-man Betacam: higher quality at a cost they can afford

it on news and current affairs, with union agreements pertaining to earlier systems. Mr Derek Ridler, a former NBC cameraman whose company EFP was the first to bring the system into Britain, sent a three-man crew to cover the Southern Cross yacht race in Australia. They saw a local cameraman using Betacam alone from a helicopter, a prospect that would be greeted with horror among camera crews in Britain.

Even though the independents must trail in the wake of ITV agreements, their costs have proved so low that new forms of production, notably industrial films and pop videos, have flourished.

At Limehouse, the independent studios which opened in London's docklands last November, chief executive Jeremy Wallington admits that work on assignments which are not for conventional network broadcast has taken up more of the studio's time than it had forecast. Until Mr Brittan's announcement, the independents seemed destined to become a high-tech, low-budget underworld of British television confined, in the main, to

Channel 4 in the broadcast field, while making a healthy, though inconspicuous, living from assignments which would never see the light of day on a domestic television set in Britain. Meanwhile, the BBC and the ITV companies would plough ahead winning small concessions on technology, but continually buoyed up, by the licence fee in the BBC's case, and a monopoly on broadcast advertising in the case of the commercial companies.

A wedge was driven into that cosy partnership on Tuesday and the viewer should be grateful for it. The crazy economics of network drama production now mean that both the BBC and the companies can scarcely contemplate any sizeable venture without seeking an overseas partner, with the result that the end product is compromised for transatlantic appeal. Paul Watson, the documentary maker whose work includes *The Family* for the BBC, recently revealed the depth of disillusionment felt by many who have worked for the corporation. The four major epithets used by BBC senior management to evaluate documentary ideas and material, he told an

industry seminar, were "ball-crunching, stomach-wrenching, tiller-touching, and sexy".

"It's getting harder and harder at the BBC to do serious documentaries about the fabric of British society. Anything which is not 'cheerful' or will cause ripples or controversy, is being shied away from", he added.

Mr Wallington's Limehouse production arm intends to make programmes that reflect "genuine British eccentricity, because we don't think anybody else will be doing that". If they are allowed to use new developments in broadcast technology to the full, and do not suffer the knock-on effects of a high ITV wage settlement, the independents stand to become an important and flourishing voice in British television, both on screen and off. Their 50 per cent share of Channel 4's output, worth £52m at the moment, may be small in comparison to the ITV companies' revenues of £1,000m a year. But one will undoubtedly find that £52m can produce a sight more television in Limehouse than at Lime Grove.

On the third anniversary of his election victory Diana Geddes looks at the prospects of the man whose ideals gave way to pragmatism

How Mitterrand shed socialism and still survives



Mitterrand: putting duty before popularity

that, after their initial amnesty for exiting illegal immigrants, the Socialists have introduced tighter immigration controls than ever before, and are now offering substantially bigger grants than under the previous government to help immigrants who are made redundant to return home.

The over-sensitive president, who once asked for the exhibits at Le Bourget air show to be dismantled before he would visit the show, now presides unashamedly over one of the biggest booms in French arms sales abroad. While other European socialist leaders flirt with pacifism and unilateral disarmament, Mitterrand has taken an iron-fist stand equalled only by President Reagan himself on the question of the deployment of US missiles in Europe and East-West relations.

The anti-neo-colonialist who criticized Giscard d'Estaing for trying to act as the policeman of Africa has now committed 3,000 French troops to stemming the Libyan incursion into Chad. "Even if our policy in Chad received only four per cent of 'satisfied' votes in the opinion polls, I would continue with that policy because it is vital for France, and nothing will make me change my mind," Mitterrand says with a dogged intransigence reminiscent of de Gaulle.

In the same way, on the economic and industrial front, Mitterrand refuses to be deflected from what he believes to be the right course for

France simply because it is unpopular. Never has the fall of a French president's ratings in the opinion polls been so abrupt or sharp: never has Mitterrand, who earlier weakly dithered over what course to take, seemed so determined, so resolute, and so serene. He believes that credibility is what counts in the long run, not popularity.

"I must do my duty," he is fond of saying. "Now is not the moment to give up. Whatever the political risks, we will hold firm." He insists that he has not changed his long-term policy or objectives: it is just that the obstacles en route have changed or rather he has just recently noticed them for the first time, and that more realistic, pragmatic action is required in the short term.

"Mitterrand likes a battle", one of his aides said recently. "He is a bit like Clemenceau in the trenches: the greater the difficulties, the more he will put his head over the parapet." Mitterrand, who kept so regally aloof at the beginning of his presidency, has certainly been more identifying himself much more closely with the government's policies over the past year. "I am responsible," he now repeats on every possible occasion. "L'Etat, c'est moi."

But is socialism? Many have noticed that Mitterrand has not used that word in any of his speeches for a long time now. It is left to apologists such as Max Gallo,

socialist writer and historian turned government minister and official spokesman, to try to explain that French socialism is not a catechism, each word of which has to be rigidly followed, but rather a journey whose course has to be adapted to the prevailing terrain and weather conditions, but whose overall direction nevertheless remains the same.

Economic rigour, Gallo points out, is not in itself left-wing or right-wing, but simply necessary or unnecessary. However, the Socialist economic programme differed from those of right-wing governments in that it included provision (such as the new two-year "retraining leave" for redundant workers in certain areas) to soften the blow and sweeten the pill of the harsh measures required to put the economy back on to the right footing. Capitalism with a human face, he might have said.

There are not many people left in France who believe the Socialists stand a chance of reelection in 1986. The left is faring disastrously in local by-elections and is certain to receive a drubbing in the European elections on June 17. The latest opinion polls give the Socialists only 22 per cent of the vote, with a further 13 per cent for the Communists.

But in local elections, European elections, and opinion polls the discontented voter can voice his protest with impunity. The parliamentary elections in 1986 will be different: then, a change of government and of policy will be at stake. Despite the undoubted deep disillusionment and distrust of the present government, there is as yet little evidence of any nostalgia for a return of the right. The weak and divided opposition is offering the man in the street nothing better than that offered by the Socialists: just more of the same, only worse.

Some things are beginning to look up for the Socialists. The programme of economic austerity introduced 14 months ago is starting to produce the hoped-for results. Inflation, although still too high, is coming down and should reach about 6.5 per cent by the end of the year. The back of the appalling high trade deficit, which rose to a record 93 billion francs (£8,000m) in 1982, has now been broken and foreign trade could be virtually in balance next year.

France's foreign debt of \$53 billion (£40 billion) continues to be a worry. Unemployment, which has been rising at an annual rate of 26 per cent since last November, is a cause of acute concern. But encouraging noises on the future prospects of France's economy are beginning to be heard from previously highly sceptical foreign observers.

On the industrial front, more trouble, such as the violent protests already seen in Lorraine, can be expected as reconstruction begins to take its toll; and the government will not always be able to introduce the costly social palliatives that it would wish. But the unions are hopelessly divided and in no position to launch a concerted attack on the government. There seems to be a certain feeling of apathy and impotence in the face of what people are beginning to accept as inevitable, despite the brave fighting words of some union leaders.

But time is running out for the Socialists. Will they be able to produce sufficient results within the next two years to convince the electorate that they should be given another five years in office? Only 19 per cent say they are satisfied with the government's record so far, according to the latest opinion polls. However, whatever happens in 1986, Mitterrand is said to be determined to remain in office until his seven-year term expires in 1988, even if that means having to work with a right-wing government and prime minister.

Ronald But

Why the Alliance is off target

Dr David Owen and Mr David Steel have a problem which is more easily expressed than solved and is rather more acute for Dr Owen than for Mr Steel. It arises from the incompatibility of two almost equally important needs.

First, if the Alliance is to be established as a real political force, with the Social Democratic Party playing the role for which it came into existence, the ultimate aim must be for the SDP to take the place of the left-dominated Labour Party as the principal opposition to Mrs Thatcher.

There will always be, as there always has been, a Conservative Party of some sort, but historically the Conservatives' opponents have come and gone and the declaration of independence by Dr Owen and his friends from the Labour Party assumed that Labour was now ripe to be gradually replaced by themselves.

Yet while Labour is the principal target at the next general election, it is mainly from the Tories that the Alliance (and especially the Liberals) are now picking up by-election protest votes - in the classic Liberal tradition. They cannot afford to jeopardize this benefit since the Alliance has to persuade the public, through a continuum of successes, that it is in business and can get votes from somewhere. On the other hand, most of such ex-Tory protest votes are likely to return to their old allegiance in a general election, and the question is how far the Alliance appeal should be directed at them, possibly at the expense of the long-term aim of replacing Labour.

Mr Steel and Dr Owen opened their European election campaign on Monday by talking to Alliance candidates. Perhaps because most of Mr Steel's people are fighting Tory seats, the Liberal leader directed his appeal in comparatively moderate terms to the Tory left (or "Wets"), emphasizing the existence of a constituency of former Conservative voters "who are starting to rebel against the style and content of this government". He presumably referred to the five by-elections in this parliament which altogether transferred 14.1 per cent of the vote to the Alliance, largely at the Tories' expense.

Dr Owen, however, chose to launch a more personal attack on Mrs Thatcher, accusing her of being the "nation's nanny" and of always being right and never admitting to error. Perhaps he felt that this was the sort of thing most likely to appeal to traditional Labour voters who are potentially SDP supporters. Perhaps he felt that, since he has been more willing than most of her foes to give her credit for economic achievement (even promising to build on the social market economy) it was time to distance himself from her.

But I suspect that the real clue to the difference between them is the SDP's much weaker position compared to the Liberals in recent by-elections. These have all shown that Liberals fighting in Tory seats have done better than the SDP fighting in Labour or Tory seats. Thus in Surrey SW, the Liberal share of the poll rose by 11.3 per cent; the Tory share fell by 10.4 per cent and Labour's by 1.5 per cent.

But in the much more socially mixed and less upper middle class constituency of Stafford, the Tory loss of 10.8 per cent brought the SDP candidate only a gain of 7.1 per cent, with a 3.7 per cent gain to

Labour. Previously, in Tory Penrith and Labour Chesterfield, the Liberals did twice as well as the SDP at Stafford, and the Social Democrats actually lost votes in the solid Labour seat of Cyon in Wales.

Thus Dr Owen has a problem. Though he personally has developed a remarkable ability to catch the attention of the public and the House of Commons, as though he rather than Mr Kinnoch were the real leader of the Opposition, his party performs worse than Mr Steel's - and alarmingly for the Alliance the reason may well be that the one fights largely Labour and the other Tory seats.

Dr Owen is therefore moving sharply on to the attack. Yet the method of his doing so on Monday hardly advances his party's claim to have a personality distinct from the Liberals. For, having called Mr Thatcher a nanny, he went on to any Liberal to accuse her of too much "naked nationalism" and of a wrong approach to Europe, over which "she is always right and they were always wrong," so that the rest of the EEC found her hard to deal with. He wanted more give and take in the European negotiations.

Yet though this sort of Euro-talk appeals to the Liberals and the Euro-fascists who follow Mr Roy Jenkins into the Labour Party it will cut little ice with the Labour voters of Stafford and elsewhere whom the SDP needs to attract. (Poll evidence shows that Mrs Thatcher is still scoring with her toughness in the EEC negotiations.) The SDP is on a difficult wicket in European elections appealing to a highly sceptical public in a highly Europe-right or wrong Alliance.

A profile of the present SDP supporter is not easy to establish, even though *The Sunday Times* last weekend did its best to help with poll evidence to show that Alliance women are far more sexually active than those in other parties and enjoyed it more than Labour women. Is there perhaps a difference here between Alliance activists and the voters the SDP needs to attract? Should this alarm Dr Owen? Even if it does not surprise the progress of Mr Steel, who gave his last major interview to a pornographic magazine? I cannot answer these questions but what is not in doubt is that the future SDP supporter ought to bear considerable resemblance to the traditional Labour voter and there is not much sign that he or she yet does.

But towards that end, Dr Owen clearly intends to step up the attack on Mr Kinnoch and Mr Scargill that he began recently in a largely unreported speech in Surrey SW. On Saturday, an emergency resolution will be moved at the Council for Social Democracy in Edinburgh by Mr Douglas Eden, the SDP's European candidate for South Yorkshire. "I will support a ballot in the miners' strike and call on Mr Kinnoch to repudiate Mr Scargill and revoke Labour's official support for his revolutionary campaign. It will demand that the TUC and Government should protect the steelworkers and that the Government should defend the civil liberties of non-striking miners who are harassed in their homes."

This is strong stuff, calculated to appeal to the Nottingham miners' resistance movement. But will the SDP be as successful in building up its vote of support as the Liberals have been at providing a temporary home for protesting Tories?

Paul Pickering

Monster Raven Loony

Hector, my adopted talking raven at London Zoo, had his elaborate mating dances rudely interrupted the other day by the arrival of a strange nationalist magazine with a picture of Adolf Hitler on the front. He was appalled that such a dreadful thing should be sent to him and immediately went into a sulk that anyone could think such a progressive and sensitive bird might be a Götterdämmerung groupie.

Doris, the intellectual of the pair, told her mate not to be hysterical as he systematically ripped the magazine into very small pieces. Such people always come out of the woodwork each spring around mad Mr Hitler's birthday, she soothed. They then dance naked round oak trees chanting "Ode to Hitler" and catch heavy colds until late autumn.

But the male bird was too upset to listen. Obviously these ultra-rightists were no longer content with merely infiltrating the Conservative Party and landing a few Tory MPs on queer street with *Panorama* and Mr John Selwyn Gummer. They were now striking at one of the very pillars of British life, the Royal Zoological Society.

Hector boomed that the Zoo, rather like the Tory party, has always been a well run institution dedicated to the Victorian values of luxury and good food and at best quite apolitical. One did not want a visitor worrying where a tiger stood on Sikh nationalism, just that he was on the right side of the moat.

The big cat usually makes a few routine roars and then settles down for a snooze, as any backbencher would after a hectic series of Prime Minister's questions. But if the poor creature became convinced that stripiness meant superiority this would lead to all sorts of problems, argues Hector, not least a few digested keepers.

And where would it stop? Happiness to the far right might even be a Schopenhauer-crazed Saurama Toad.

Force F16 until I remarked that this kind of attitude may have got him on to the mailing list.

In the 1950s a group of Berkeley psychologists tried to find a way of identifying racists and fascists so as to have an early warning against would-be future tyrants. They found that an interest in power, toughness and ethnocentrism were good pointers, and I gently explained to Hector that his assaults on Americans at the Tower of London - which led to his being banished to the Zoo in the first place - might be misinterpreted as manifestations of these traits.

Naturally he was furious. Americans, he said, he objected to on aesthetic grounds and anyway, they were composed of so many different peoples it was impossible to be racist about them. He didn't dislike all Americans, only those he met.

Doris is very sceptical about the right-wing threat and says that the GLC may have recently adopted two lions but this hasn't led to the kings of the jungle declaring their enclosures a nuclear-free zone or worrying that the large piece of meat they are getting is so expensive because of the rigorous Tory policy of joining the EEC.

She opines that animals are probably more sensible about their survival than humans, rarely coming to blows in the wild because they cannot afford to, except for food. But politics always ends in tears and given the choice between Neil Kinnoch and a warm Spaniard, which she would go for? More exciting alternative every time.

Hector has been questioning the penguin next door because he leans to the right when asleep and is a bit suspicious of the eagle who tends to be a symbol for such groups, though he maintains that really they are a bunch of wimps. In the end the only animal the two could agree was sufficiently wicked to don the jackboot was the rat, but it's not put them off their favourite food. There is nothing quite like having time to chew over life's little problems.



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GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

There is obviously a small chance that the Russians are trying to bargain for better conditions at the Olympics and that if they get them they will attend. Had they wanted to leave themselves no loophole at all they would presumably have waited until June 2 before making their announcement. However, for the moment we have to assume that they mean what they say, or that if there are conditions the Americans will not meet them.

Probably we can also assume that the reasons given by the Russians are not far from the real ones. If they had wished to retaliate for the partial Western boycott of the Moscow Olympics they would have cooked up some excuse connected with American activities in Central America, even if that had made their own condemnation of the Western boycott look hollow. Instead they have complained about the "cavalier attitude of the United States authorities to the Olympic charter, the gross flouting of the ideals and traditions of the Olympic movement." They have pointed especially to "extreme organizations and groupings of all sorts... (which) have stepped up their activity with the direct connivance of the American authorities".

In other words, totting up the likely profits and losses they have come to the conclusion that the losses might be greater than the profits. For the glory of the medals they might have to pay a heavy price in defections and exposure to hostile demonstrations, while also feeling disturbed by the highly commercialized setting of these games. The end result could have been an unacceptable level of humiliation. Add to this a fundamental distrust of Mr Reagan and a

strong desire to avoid obliging him in any way and it is not too difficult to explain the decision. Perhaps the KGB made the running, worried by security problems and angry at the refusal of a visa to one of its own men, but Mr Chernomirsky may also have relished the thought of spitting in Mr Reagan's eye.

How far should the Americans now try to placate the Russians in the hope of reversing the decision? Obviously the Soviet athletes are entitled to personal security from attack or harassment, but there are limits beyond which it would be wrong to curtail the rights of a free society in order to protect them from embarrassment or temptation. If the Soviet Union wishes to participate in world events it must take the risk of exposing its citizens to other systems and other cultures. It cannot expect them to be wholly cocooned in Los Angeles.

If the decision is not reversed the games will suffer. Money will be lost, and medals in many events will be less valuable because of the absence of the most formidable competition. Beyond that the cumulative effect of boycotts, terrorist attacks and disputes over creeping professionalization may well bring about a reassessment of the whole nature of the Olympic Games. This could be no bad thing. The original idea of the Olympic movement - that amateur sportsmen could gather for friendly competition in a way that would diminish rather than exacerbate political antagonisms - has almost wholly disappeared. The games have become a highly commercialized competition between nations in which true amateurism scarcely exists. For all that, the games still provide a

relatively harmless and enjoyable way of encouraging excellence, gaining fame and making money.

What has gone wrong is that the gap between myth and reality has become too wide. One or the other must give way. Either reality must be adjusted to the myth, which would require a drastic attempt to cut down the size and commercialization of the games, or myth must be adjusted to reality, which would mean ceasing to insist on the artificial distinction between amateur and professional and being less shamefaced about the role of commercial interests.

Either way there could be a strong case for fixing the location of the games for good, preferably in Greece. Fewer and fewer suitable cities are interested in the costs and risks of playing host to the games, and the decision itself has become increasingly politicized. There would have been no boycott of the Moscow games if they had not been in Moscow. There would have been no boycott of the Los Angeles games if they were not in Los Angeles. This is not to say that all problems would be solved. Those who boycotted the Montreal games were not influenced by the location. Nor were the terrorists in Munich. Trouble can be attracted to any large gathering.

But that is all the more reason for removing one of the many possible causes of trouble. A fixed facility augmented by cruise ships every four years would be feasible, especially if the number of events were reduced. If the Greeks were willing it would help re-connect the games to their historical roots and thereby, with luck, infuse them with a little more sanity, and much less politics.

POSTAL BALLOTS

Voting in the annual elections for a new leadership for the Civil and Public Services Association ends tomorrow. Members of the CPSA have had to place their votes by attending ballot meetings often called at inconvenient times, or occurring at the end of long sessions on other business when only the trade union's activist members are left, or at out of the way places some distance from work. The effect of these practices, even in a union like the CPSA, is to produce a leftist bias in the small proportion of votes cast by each branch. In other unions the practice is often more widespread and the effect of such abuses shows more starkly in the policies pursued by trade union leaders elected on such a basis.

The government's trade union bill which reaches the Lords next week is wholly inadequate on the question of trade union elections. It provides for elections to certain positions in trade unions, but then fails to provide for any effective remedy to deal with electoral abuse. Yet irregularities in trade union elections are bound to occur until a formal and universal system of postal balloting is introduced. There have been many parliamentary requests for mandatory postal ballots yet ministers have refused them all.

It is said by ministers that postal ballots would not neces-

arily achieve such a high turnout as that secured by some workplace ballots: that fiddling could still occur; and that it would be unfair to impose a new system of balloting on those unions which already have an adequate system. Why are ministers so reluctant to accommodate the views of many moderate trade unionists who have often suffered at the hands of left wingers on account of their moderation?

Under the proposed Bill the only remedy available to trade union members who feel that election malpractices have occurred, is to apply to the High Court. The difficulties of that procedure have been well illustrated within the CPSA itself, when Mr Charles Elliot and Mr John Butcher sought to challenge the result of the 1982 election. Apart from complaints from trade union members who may have been victims of the kind of devious procedures described above, the only evidence which would be likely to convince a court would be from the ballot papers used in the election. The trade union's returning officer, however, is not likely to furnish a complainant with that evidence, yet without it he may be unable to convince the court of the validity of his complaint.

In the case of the CPSA, interminable legal arguments about discovery so postponed matters that the following year's election came along before Mr

Elliot and Mr Butcher had a chance to make their case. They thus abandoned the proceedings, facing a bill for 60 per cent of the total costs, with the CPSA's share being 40 per cent. There could be no more effective deterrent to any trade unionist challenging elections which he feels to have been abused than the prospect of having to meet a bill for thousands of pounds.

It is difficult to devise a complaints procedure for trade union elections which could operate really effectively unless it is based on the postal ballot. That would provide lasting evidence of the manner in which the election had been conducted. It would be a deterrent to the kind of manipulations practiced by trade union activists at branch and local meetings called to hold elections. Since nearly half of the TUC membership still elects its trade union leadership at branch meetings, a change to postal ballots could have a decisive influence on the character and responsibility of trade union leaders. Not surprisingly the Left wing element in the TUC is against postal ballots, using the curious argument that postal balloting "denies the masses their democratic rights". Moderate trade unionists, on the other hand, must be dismayed at the lack of support they have received from the Government on this point. There is still time to amend the Bill.

FILE ON TORTURE

Amnesty International has never been a body to flinch before the magnitude of a task. Otherwise it would hardly have had the courage to embark last month on a "global campaign to eradicate torture". The sad probability is that torture is in regular use today in a majority of the member-states of the United Nations, notwithstanding the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment issued by that organization in 1975.

That being so, the Turkish government will no doubt feel aggrieved that Amnesty should have singled out Turkey as the subject of its first detailed "file on torture", published yesterday as part of the new campaign. Turkey, it will point out, is just emerging from a period of painful military rule, necessary in order to end the even more painful anarchy and terrorism it experienced during the late 1970s. It now has an elected civilian government and, unlike so many countries in the world, is at least striving to live up to democratic and civilised standards of behaviour. Excesses have no doubt been committed, but Amnesty's informants - themselves former leftist political activists who have been in prison, and so by definition enemies of the regime - have an interest in exaggerating them. Why not turn the spotlight on a

more flagrant or more heinous case, with fewer mitigating circumstances?

Amnesty can be relied on to turn its spotlight on other cases soon enough, many of them governments of quite different political complexion from the Turkish. But the Turkish government, if it is sincere in its determination to end abuses of human rights, should view Amnesty's attentions as helpful rather than harmful. Eradicating torture in Turkey will not be a simple matter. In Turkey, as in many other countries, the notion of social discipline is almost inseparable from that of violence. Common soldiers expect to be beaten by their officers, and common criminals or even suspects expect to be roughed up by the police. It may well be, indeed, that political prisoners are a small minority of those who suffer torture, or at any rate severe physical maltreatment, in Turkish police stations and prisons.

What distinguishes political prisoners from others, in this context, is their relatively high level of education. Instead of accepting violence as an inescapable part of the system, they complain, go on hunger strike, seek to inform the outside world. Reports of torture of both political and non-political detainees were already common before the military seized power in 1980. The increase in the number of allegations thereafter

was, as Amnesty says, "undoubtedly related to the increased number of people detained and the lengthening of the incommunicado detention period".

What is disturbing is that "the pattern has shown no significant change during 1984", i.e. since the civilian government has been in office. It is disturbing, perhaps not altogether surprising, given that much of the country remains under martial law and that the civilian government has taken office under the watchful eye of the armed forces, represented in particular by the leader of the 1980 coup, former General Kenan Evren, as president of the republic. The new prime minister, Mr Turgut Ozal, has deliberately made economic recovery his priority and has avoided any spectacular move on so sensitive an issue (for the military) as human rights.

Yet an important part of the mission assigned to him by the military is to restore Turkey's position as a respectable and respected member of the free world. The military must understand that he cannot succeed in that mission unless or until he can show clear evidence of, at least, a trend towards greater respect for human rights in the Turkish penal system. Turkey is a good choice for Amnesty's first "file on torture", precisely because Turkey is a country which, having set itself European standards, can be expected to take some notice.

Working needs in Christian context

From Dr A. B. Cramp

Sir, What is the primary purpose of industry? The Chairman of the Industrial Christian Fellowship asserts (May 5) that it is to serve consumers, not - as a coalfield pastor had claimed (April 21) - to provide fulfilment for industrial workers.

Both views are inadequate. The implied disjunction is damaging and false. It is false because people are (intended by God to be) both consumers and workers.

To accord precedence to workers, especially in declining industries, may indeed involve subsidies and feather-bedding to an extent which - going beyond desirable cushioning against the dislocating effects of possibly short-lived market changes - demeans the dignity of the workers themselves.

But to accord precedence to consumers leads to evils at least as damaging. The "sovereign" consumer, we all know, must be persuaded to buy "goods", however shoddy and ephemeral, to keep the industrial machine in motion. To that end, today's not-so-hidden persuaders pursue technical "progress" by methods which involve wholesale de-skilling (save for a technical elite) and destruction of jobs.

The result is that the unquestionable needs of workers are sacrificed to the quest for profit by remote bureaucracy, rhetorically (but only partially in reality) serving themselves as consumers.

The biblical world view to which the ICF chairman and the coalfield pastor both implicitly appeal does not support the modern western analytical, atomistic approach underlying market economies. An economy for human fulfilment would organize work in a manner balancing the interests of worker-consumers.

Perhaps if Christians agreed that the primary purpose of industry is the stewardship of God's creation, we should see more clearly and act more wisely.

Yours faithfully,
A. B. CRAMP (Director of Studies in Economics),
Emmanuel College,
Cambridge.
May 8.

Teachers' strike

From Mr D. R. Bowes

Sir, If, as some unions are proposing, teachers are instructed to withdraw "good will", they are surely asking teachers to admit to spiritual hypocrisy.

A "good will" is a foundation of the pure vocational vocation for serving and loving children and young people, which a teacher should treasure as inviolate. If it is to appear to become a controllable and mechanistic "tap" that can be turned off or on according to mere monetary and market trends it is a weak and bad will and surely has no part with what good and positive educational service and caring is all about.

It is akin to suggesting the creative energy and inspiration of an artist can be controlled and manipulated according to the price he can get for his pictures or poetry.

Yours truly,
D. R. BOWES (Headmaster,
Northgate Junior Mixed Infants School, Bishop's Stortford),
9 Thorold Road,
Bishop's Stortford,
Hertfordshire.
May 4.

The Begum case

From the National President of the Free Church Women's Council

Sir, Does the Home Office know what it is doing in sending a 21-year-old widow with her child back to Bangladesh while her father and most of her family are here? Has the quality of mercy been strained out?

Yours faithfully,
ELSIE CHAMBERLAIN,
The Manse,
12 Ashley Road,
Taunton,
Somerset.
May 5.

Grim outlook for arts

From Mr Patrick G. Raymond

Sir, The conclusions reached by Professor Berthoud (April 27) from his analysis of "new blood" research points are correctly reached only if some implicit assumptions that he makes are valid. These assumptions, made explicit, are that:

1. Our "intellectual and cultural traditions" do not include science, mathematics, engineering etc.
2. The emphasis on English among the arts subjects which currently exists is right and should be perpetuated.
3. "Serious contact" with our traditions is best maintained through university teaching and research.

Each of these assumptions is open to question, though in the short space of a letter it is scarcely possible to do justice to the complexity of the issues involved, which is perhaps why Professor Berthoud himself refrained from mentioning them.

There is also an issue which needs to be brought into the same debate, again one of which Professor Berthoud is doubtless aware, which is the extent to which the provision of greater numbers of high calibre people trained in engineering, information technology, etc. is a prerequisite of that wealth generation which will make the future arts provision, even at its present level, possible.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK RAYMOND,
The National Computing Centre Ltd,
Oxford Road,
Manchester.
April 30.

Questions outstanding on Irish unity

From Mr Gerald Griffith

Sir, Of the eight assertions in Mr Peter Jay's letter to you (May 4) I suggest a number are either questionable or irrelevant. Removal of citizenship from former colonial populations is hardly comparable with its removal from citizens of the United Kingdom.

The totality of partition was much enhanced by the actions of the South and its leaders - the scheme of the 1920 Government of Ireland Act was abandoned in the face of nationalist demands which led to the treaty. De Valera was unmoved by Churchill's telegram in December, 1941, and refused to free Irish neutrality and later the Free State left the Commonwealth which could have provided the constitutional umbrella for a form of Irish unity.

Ulster did well by the rest of the United Kingdom during the war and in the following years a prosperous and successful community was developed, only to be shattered by the recent years of depression and civil unrest.

If, as Mr Jay suggests, a form of unity with the Republic was imposed on the Six Counties by Britain it is not unlikely that it would have to be closely followed by the assembly of an Anglo-Irish army for the subjugation of the north-eastern corner of the country so that the present situation would in effect be turned inside out, with the additional hazard that terrorism would be extended to the whole island.

Britain's fault in Northern Ireland was to allow Stormont to get away with too little supervision so that far too many of its Roman Catholic citizens suffered civil disability of an often scandalous severity. Dr Edward Norman, in your issue on Friday (May 4), drew attention to the difficulties caused by cultural diversity within a single country in the context of South Africa. The many different cultures which a united Ireland would have to accommodate were the subject of the late Professor Lyons's Ford lectures at Oxford in 1978.

The Free State/Republic has successfully absorbed the southern Unionists, as the forum rightly claims, but there is no comparison between them and the Presbyterian Unionists in the North, and at present there can be no hope of any success for a form of unity imposed from above.

The forum's third alternative, joint authority, is its most encouraging recommendation. Government activity in many different fields could be carried out by single authorities common to the Six Counties and the Republic.

Supervision of lighthouses was one of the few such to survive the break-up of the old Union, but with good will the list could, as Mr Shirley Williams suggests, be greatly extended, and her committee of MEPs might come to serve some of the functions of the Council of Ireland contemplated by the draftsman of the Act of 1920.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD C. GRIFFITH,
31 Kew Green,
Kew, Richmond,
Surrey.
May 7.

Mr Botha's visit

From the Most Reverend Dr Trevor Huddleston

Sir, Your leading article (May 8) concerning Mrs Thatcher's invitation to the South African Prime Minister is such a catena of misrepresentation and bias that it is hard to find a corrective starting point. It is not at all hard, however, to state the basic and ethical grounds for opposition to this visit nor to say what advances they (the opponents of apartheid) regard as necessary in South Africa... to remove from South Africa the burden of being the world's only pariah.

As a Christian I regard the Government of South Africa as "irredeemably and absolutely evil" so long as it pursues the policy of institutionalised racism known as apartheid. I profess a faith which defines human dignity as of infinite and immutable worth and bases the whole of its salvation doctrine on the incarnation, the taking of human nature into the godhead itself.

Because of this, for the Christian, apartheid is not just an insult to man but a blasphemy against God. Mr Botha is the unrepentant representative of this blasphemy. His constitutional changes, so far from ameliorating apartheid, entrench it in the Constitution itself and deprive four fifths of the population of their citizenship.

Queue for service

From the General Secretary of the Union of Communication Workers

Sir, I read with interest the letter from Mr David Harrington that appeared in your issue on May 2, complaining about post office counter services and the interminable queues to be found in many of them.

On behalf of the union that represents counter staff I too share the concern that he expresses. However, the reason why such queues are occurring in those post offices that currently remain, with indeed the risk of many closing, is to be found by way of the Government's imposition on the Post Office of severe financial targets and more particularly their insistence that post office counter costs are substantially reduced.

The Government has imposed upon the Post Office a 5 per cent real reduction in running costs over a three-year period, but at the same time has removed from post office counters many of the types of transaction which help meet the overheads of providing a public service.

The removal of work from post

From the Reverend Mr Jeremy Collingwood

Sir, It is to be hoped that the British Government, in studying the proposals of the New Ireland Forum, will give serious consideration to the idea of joint sovereignty over Ulster. This option meets the fundamental objective of reconciling legitimate nationalist aspirations for Irish unity with the equally legitimate desire of the Unionist majority in Northern Ireland to retain their British connection.

It should not be difficult to devise a constitution for the Province of Ulster based on joint sovereignty. The Queen and the Irish President would be joint Heads of State. Both national anthems and flags would have equal status. Ulster residents would have citizenship of both Eire and the United Kingdom.

The province could be governed by a Council of Ireland. The people of Northern Ireland would themselves directly elect representatives to the House of Commons and the Dublin Dail. These same representatives would comprise the Council of Ulster, together with an equal number of representatives nominated by the British and Irish parliaments. In this way the interests of Ulster, Eire and Britain would be nicely balanced.

Voting in the council would be by simple majority, except in the matter of certain entrenched clauses, such as defence, internal security (including control of the police) and civil rights, where a two-thirds majority would be required. A Bill of Rights could guarantee fundamental human rights with right of appeal to the European Court.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY COLLINGWOOD,
Holy Trinity Vicarage,
6 Goldney Avenue,
Bristol, Avon.

From Dr Jane Irons

Sir, I find your response to the proposals put forward by the New Ireland Forum (leading articles, May 3, 4) both condescending and inadequate.

It is not sufficient simply to reiterate the British official attitude towards the Irish "problem": to wave once again the misleading flag of "freedom of choice" for Ulster. Irish nationalism is not just some kind of unpleasant smell which will perhaps eventually go away if the British persist in their time-honoured course of ignoring it. Ireland in a divided state will never be at peace, as the events of the past fifteen years have demonstrated only too well. Surely the priority now must be for an end to this interminable tale of needless suffering.

Ireland has taken the first, and admittedly long-overdue, step towards a radical re-examination of the situation. It is not time that Britain did some re-thinking as well? Clearly it is no longer enough simply to plod with the same blind and dogged persistence along the same well-trodden path towards the same honourable but useless dead end.

Yours faithfully,
JANE IRONS,
Timsah,
Sorrento Road,
Dalkey, co Dublin.

What, then, are the necessary "advances" which might make Mr Botha's visit tolerable to the Christian conscience? I shall be pragmatic - as you urge me to be.

First, direct dialogue between the Government of South Africa and the leaders of the African resistance movement now in prison or in exile.

Secondly, the immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 435 giving independence to Namibia and safeguarding the democratic process.

Thirdly, the ending, forthwith, of the so-called "Homelands" policy and of the mass removals which are its outward expression.

Fourthly, the inclusion of all citizens in one register as having voting rights.

Finally, the abolition of those

influx control regulations based on race and colour and symbolized by the pass laws.

But let us start with the first. I certainly believe that "jaw-jaw is better than war-war"; but it must begin inside South Africa between black and white leaders, not at 10 Downing Street or Chequers between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Botha.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
TREVOR HUDDLESTON,
(President, Anti-Apartheid Movement),
St James's Church,
197 Piccadilly, W1.
May 8.

office counters such as the payment of pensions, child benefit, and the change from weekly to either fortnightly or monthly payments of various other allowances, including unemployment benefit, has meant a severe loss of revenue to the Post Office, which now both the staff and the public are having to bear the brunt of.

The sad fact is that the Post Office and its operations such as post office counters are now being run on strictly commercial and financial lines, with a lessening regard to public service. The sooner the public at large realise what is happening and the consequences, with both the service at post office counters likely to take longer and with the threat of closure to many so-called "uncommercial" post offices, and start to campaign for change, the sooner we get back to meeting the public's demands, not only by providing the service they require on our current range of work but also by offering the new ranges of business which are within our grasp.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN TUFFIN, General Secretary,
Union of Communication Workers,
UCW House,
Crescent Lane, SW4.
May 4.

Sport sacrificed for financial gain

From Mr Edward Grayson

Sir, The recent letters on cricket conduct and practices merge into a wider issue of general sporting standards covered independently but almost identically by your distinguished specialist sports writers in your issue of Friday, May 4.

Mr David Miller explained soccer's sacrifice of its true heritage and lawful play for an elusive financial chimera; Mr John Woodcock analysed cricket's physical risks from dangerous fast bowling on a suspect wicket; and Mr Robert Pryce recalled the late Sir Arthur Elvin's old-fashioned standards of care demanded from the potentially explosive violence in ice-hockey.

Collectively they illuminated what is often forgotten or overwhelmed by the pace of modern satellite communications: how far in time and behaviour public sport has travelled since the creation of its modern structures over a century ago by Victorian legislators, and Mr America's ideal of *mens sana in corpore sano*. That ideal now conflicts graphically with the demands of public and, indeed, private competitions and commercial sponsorships.

The traditional professions of law, medicine, the Church and the Services all have identifiable and recognisable codes of practice and conduct upon which the public can rely for generally consistent levels of probity and integrity. What and where are the ethics or moral guidelines to control and regulate modern public sport, especially for the hero-worshipping youngsters who model themselves upon the public performers?

This issue, which your columns clearly and currently illustrate, does not appear to have attracted the active attention of the amateur administrators from domestic and international governing bodies and the marketing moguls who have inherited these showcases for public conduct.

Until this problem is faced realistically by those who are in a position to tackle but continue to ignore it, they must surely merit Kipling's condemnation, perhaps significantly for modern international sport, at the time of the Boer War in 1902, of "the fanned-out wicket or the muddled oafs at the goals".

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
EDWARD GRAYSON,
4 Paper Buildings,
Temple, EC4.
May 5.

Pre-Raphaelite attack

From Mr Clive Fairweather

Sir, How entirely appropriate that Bernard Levin's attack upon the Pre-Raphaelites (May 7) should be conducted in a prose style so Victorian, declamatory and purple. In this guise, his opinions may best be answered by reference to the writings of John Ruskin, whose defence of the Pre-Raphaelites was as spirited as Bernard Levin's assault upon the same and whose powers of utterance were the mountains in whose shadow Mr Levin has walked these many years.

A failure to recognize the wonder and beauty of created life, and the pity of its loss, so powerfully affirmed in paintings like Millais's "Ophelia" or "The Blind Girl": an inability to perceive or unwillingness to acknowledge, in a work of this school, some force for good still speaking to a world where "All is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil"; (to quote Gerard Manley Hopkins, that most Pre-Raphaelite of poets) - these are deficiencies of which Bernard Levin ought to be ashamed; especially at this season of the year when all may feel "The roll, the rise, the carol, the creation" to which the Pre-Raphaelites so touchingly responded.

Such failings on Mr Levin's part lend an additional irony to the placard which Millais's Blind Girl wears around her neck: "Pity the blind".

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE FAIRWEATHER,
20 Church Street,
Bishop's Stortford,
Hertfordshire.

Invited to leave

From Mr D. Coomber

Sir, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach (May 7) has suffered a lapse of memory. The devastating attack made on Neville Chamberlain in the House of Commons in May, 1940, could hardly have been made by Winston Churchill, who was First Lord of the Admiralty at the time. The attack on the Prime Minister was made from the back benches by L. S. Amery. Quoting Cromwell, he said: "You have sat too long here for any good you have been doing. Depart, I say, and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go!"

"For God's sake go" sounds like a version made on the lines of the New English Bible.

Yours faithfully,
DENYS COOMBER,
Savage Club,
9 Fitzmaurice Place,
Berkeley Square, W1.

Traveller's joy

From Mrs Angela Roberts

Sir, Whilst Prebendary Davies (May 2) was scuttling his swallows in after their long flight, our blackbirds were nearing the end of their first arduous stint of parenthood this year.

Their brood of three finally left the nest, accompanied by the usual parental clamour, on the afternoon of April 30. They, too, would seem to have taken advantage of the exceptionally warm April we have all enjoyed.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA ROBERTS,
59 Breamlea Gardens,
Ham, Richmond, Surrey.

A SPECIAL REPORT

A look at the changing scene of voice, image and data transmissions, coinciding with Communications 84, which opens at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, next Tuesday.

The future of the world's telecommunications industry is changing steadily from separate national businesses to international relationships. That is becoming more of an accepted political philosophy yet a few years ago it would have been rejected completely by most of the authorities in Europe.

In recent years, the break-up of the huge company, AT&T, and the approval given to it by the US government to compete overseas, the pact signed between the Americans and the Japanese guaranteeing that more public procurement contracts be awarded to the US telecommunications equipment suppliers, and the attempts by the British government to liberalize the equipment market in the UK are indicative of the wind of change. That wind is still blowing ever so gently, but in Europe the markets may become freer because of the advances being made in satellite communications which will mean that intercontinental telecommunications will become cheap and commonplace. The cost of developing that satellite technology and the rockets to put the spacecraft into orbit have necessitated that countries consider partnerships in their pursuit of advanced communication technologies. The Ariane rocket project - a competitor of the US Space Shuttle for launching satellites - is funded through the European Space Agency which in turn is supported by the European member states.

But Europe is still wary of dramatic change in telecommunications. The governments appear to welcome the idea that their equipment could be sold overseas but do not relish the thought that foreign suppliers could be given preference over their indigenous manufacturers. For decades the telecommunications in Europe has been controlled by each country's telecommunications authority and the principal indigenous suppliers in each country were awarded the prime contracts.

The world market in telecommunications equipments equipment supply is estimated to be



worth more than US \$40,000m (about £28,170) 10 per cent every year. But because of the advantage given to indigenous manufacturers there is a distortion in the profile of the telecommunications market.

There are signs the situation will change. In Europe there has been some progress. Viscount Davignon, vice president of the EEC, has been seeking to encourage the European states to ensure that about 10 per cent of the telecommunication contracts are given to foreign suppliers. The idea is to help standardize equipment which would trade much easier but also to provide a competitive edge to indigenous manufacturers, some of which have wallowed in virtual monopoly and made little effort to improve either the technology or the price of their products.

Though some of the US standards were not as high nor had the same life expectancy as the equipment made in Europe, it did not account for the

differential in prices which existed for years. It was commonplace for US prices to be about half the price of the equivalent European design.

The complete question was considered in a formal fashion by the EEC in 1980, which was trying to find out what potential existed for the new industry - Information Technology (the marriage of telecommunications and computers).

A report to the commission concluded: "Efficient, low-cost communication is essential to support the vast range of new services, ranging from electronic mail to videotext and data communication, made possible by the new technologies. New low-cost transmission technologies (glass fibres, satellites) together with digital switching and transmission offer the technical means."

The new services that are coming into existence must be increasingly transnational in character, for the world of

multinational business, trade and industry offers major markets for many of the new applications."

In Europe, the market leaders competing for the business are GEC, Plessey, STC (Britain); Siemens (Germany); Thomson CIT Alcatel and CGE (France); Philips (Holland); Italtel (Italy); and Ericsson of Sweden, NEC of Japan, and ITT, GTE and Western Electric of the US. It is only recently that Western Electric - the manufacturing arm of AT & T - has been allowed to compete internationally.

The US phenomenon of cable television has been studied and analysed by France, Britain and Germany. Britain has awarded 11 franchises to cable television operators who are preparing to offer in the next 12 months multichannel cable television services in the UK. Germany is currently cabling parts of the country while France has given its approval for 320,000 homes

to have cable services at a cost of about £120m. Cabling in France and Germany will be undertaken by the respective telecommunications authority. Europeans believe that a system of cables and satellites will provide a network connecting homes and businesses, giving the basis for a standard 'telematic' terminal with enormous commercial potential. These terminals will be attached to high speed digital networks across Europe providing cheap intercontinental communication.

The EEC had dreamed in 1980 that "the new telematic terminal market will in addition include a vast range of other devices from wordprocessing equipment to intelligent television."

The dream has not been realized yet and the international movement towards that goal is slow indeed.

Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

Britain will soon depend on advanced telecommunication links for most of its business and entertainment activities. Disciples of the technology believe it to be so and the Government which has been providing the political momentum behind that view has been trying to create a policy to make the dream a reality.

Fibre optic cabling spanning hundreds of miles of British countryside providing the capacity for data, telephony and television; satellites which beam television programmes either to people's homes or to cable television networks; microwave links which can be erected in weeks instead of the months required to lay cable; and mobile cellular radio whereby the country is divided up into cells, thus allowing an executive speeding in a car to communicate with his office by radio telephone are all examples of the changing technology.

The powerhouse of change in the UK is British Telecom, which dominates the UK telecommunications market and will continue to do so when privatized. The Telecommunications Bill, which will empower the Government to transform British Telecom into a private company and be able to sell parts of it to the private sector, has already passed through the Houses of Parliament. Though it has been a highly contentious issue both in the Commons and the House of Lords, the Government has maintained that the funding required by British Telecom to expand and modernize must come from the private sector free from the rigid constraints of the Treasury's Public Sector Borrowing Requirements (PSBR). This year British Telecom will be spending just under £2,000m modernizing its networks.

Much of the political pressure exerted on the Government to dispose of British Telecom's monopoly had come from City of London businessmen that were dissatisfied with the level of service being offered by the corporation.

The Government responded by awarding a licence to Mercury's consortium of Cable & Wireless, BP Barclays Merchant Bank - to operate a network in competition with British Telecom. Mercury's plans include a fibre-optic cable network, linking most of the principal business centres including London, Birmingham

Going private will change our world

and Manchester. A chain of microwave towers and antennae is needed to link one city with another and each customer with the main distribution point in any city. The fibre cables will be laid alongside the railway tracks of British Rail's inter-city routes.

The forecast is that British Telecom will have 97 per cent of the international network revenue by 1987

A recent study of government policy on telecommunications by the London-based Adam Smith Institute - a proponent of free competition - forecast that British Telecom would still be the principal telecommunications carrier in 1987 and sell more equipment than any other group. It concluded: "It is not an effective antidote to attempt to improve the level of competition by granting more licences before 1990 and by providing OFTEL (the agency which will monitor the UK telecommunications industry) with some more powers to deter malpractice. No doubt such a solution may be popular, but unfortunately it glosses over the crucial problem; namely that a powerful state monopoly is becoming an equally powerful private quasi-monopoly."

Based on Department of Industry estimates, the institute

forecast that by 1987 British Telecom would have 97 per cent of the international network revenue - £109m compared with £980m in 1982. Alternative networks would have £30m. Other figures forecast were Inland Trunk £2,700m (96 per cent of the market) compared with competition generating £110m; inland local £1,500m (97 per cent of the market); and value added networks (such as electronic mail and services offered on telecommunication links, £30m, or 86 per cent of that market. By 1987 British Telecom is forecast to sell £1,040m worth of equipment out of a total of £1,725m.

However the technology offered on the British public network is some of the most modern in the world, although the UK still suffers from the deficiencies provided by parts of the network which are decades old. It is the intention of British Telecom to digitalise its network by the 1990's. That means that all voice and data will be represented by pulses or spikes (in the language of computers) thus making conversation between these units easier but also providing a higher quality of voice reproduction.

A look at the networks on offer gives an indication of the progress being made. Packet Switchstream provides a network for computer communications; Kilostream and Megastream private circuit facilities for high speed communications; and Satstream a satellite communication service, which this year will connect the UK with North America and Europe.

The Government's cable television policy, if successfully implemented, could - in theory - provide cheaper local telephone circuits. Only British Telecom and Mercury have been licensed to carry voice transmissions. No other licences will be awarded before 1990, by which time Mercury is expected to be national. The Government is encouraging cable-television operators to consider partnerships with British Telecom or Mercury with a view to offering local telephone services on the cable network. Eleven franchises have been awarded to cable television networks wishing to offer multichannel (about 30) services. Of these, five have some partnership with British Telecom and another two have declared their intention of offering services with Mercury.

B J

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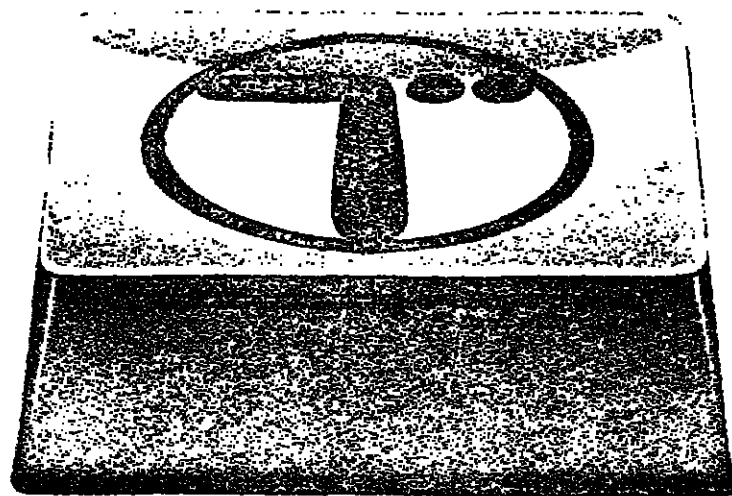
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COMMUNICATIONS

Message received in 10 seconds

An inordinate amount of business is transacted by word of mouth, with orders being placed and accepted over the telephone. Nevertheless, there is an increasing need for the microcomputer, already installed for other business applications, to be used to provide text communications.

At present the most widely used means, aside from the postal service, is the telex network. With just under 100,000 subscribers in Britain and a great many thousands overseas it provides immediate communications between any two subscribers as well as access to those on TWX in the US.

Telex is, however, a product of the electromechanical age and though the latest machines incorporate microprocessors, they do not take full advantage of modern technology. The newer services generally offer access to the telex network, but the eventual aim is to provide a more widely available and user-friendly system.

The ideal of full international compatibility between any two text terminals wherever they may be is a long way away and is not likely to be achieved. However, there is a growing adoption of standards that can pave the way towards this goal. In particular, a number of administrations are introducing a teletext service which promises to meet many of the requirements for text communications.

Teletext is faster than telex and can send an A4 page consisting of about 1,500 characters in less than 10 seconds. Because it is faster, it is also cheaper. And,

the service is designed so there is no need for a dedicated terminal: access can be via electronic typewriters, word processors or microcomputers.

It has been the character set, limited to not much more than capital letters, the numbers and some punctuation marks which has been one of the limiting factors to the penetration of telex. This has been overcome with teletext which, in addition to normal alpha-numerics, will handle language specific characters such as the German Umlaut within its repertoire of 308 characters.

It operates over the public switched telephone network (PSTN) or over BT's packet switched network known as Packet Switchstream or PSS and, in due course, will be able to provide access to like terminals in any part of the world. Every teletext terminal is uniquely identified by its own identity number formed from either the telephone number (if on the PSTN) or the network user address (on PSS).

As may be expected, it is the computer which has revolutionized text communications. The minis and mainframes with their insatiable demand for data ensured that means were developed to allow information to be transported electronically over the wires. The basic elements being the code, generally ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) which provides a wider range of characters than that of telex, and the modems which allow the computers to communicate via the telephone line.

The advent of low cost microcomputing has brought with it growing interest in the sending of text from micro to micro. While this is quite feasible and is being carried out increasingly it is probably of less interest than electronic mail to the majority of businesses. This is due to the fact that generally the machines cannot be used for this purpose unattended.

In electronic mail systems, the text is not sent directly to the required destination but via an intermediate computer. In a system such as Telecom Gold, subscribers have "mail boxes" to which mail is addressed. When a subscriber "logs on" to the system from the keyboard of his computer he identifies himself and keys in his secret password. A message then displayed on his screen tells him what mail is waiting.

He can then scan it to see what is important and request the most important one to be displayed on his screen. He can then, if required, obtain a hard copy from the printer attached to his micro. Other options include sending a reply to the appropriate mailbox, to wait the attention of the person who had originally written to him. The system is designed to provide all the normal correspondence features.

However, such a system is of value only when the person you need to communicate with is also a subscriber. So even though the number of users is growing, we are still a long way from having achieved universal systems that are so necessary for the free flow of business information.

Adrian Morant

More than just for jockeys and lawyers

Last month British Telecom picked up one of the Queen's Awards for Export and Technology for Prestel – for its computer based information system for use by the public or business. It is, for those involved in Prestel, a welcome recognition for a system that its fiercest critics consider to have been a giant waste of money and by kinder ones as just ahead of its time.

To some extent Prestel's fortunes have changed – by targeting on certain specific groups, ranging from travel agents to home computer enthusiasts, who have their own particular use for Prestel. British Telecom has increased the number of terminals in use from 15,000 to over 40,000 in a little over two years. It is a figure, however, considerably less grandiose than British Telecom envisaged when it launched Prestel in 1979 believing it was a mass market product suitable for every home.

For most people though Prestel could never be more than an amusing gimmick and when it was discovered it could cost as much as £20 to £30 a month to have one people stayed away in their millions. Prestel is the most widely known viewdata system and it is the only one available to the public in the same way as a telephone is.

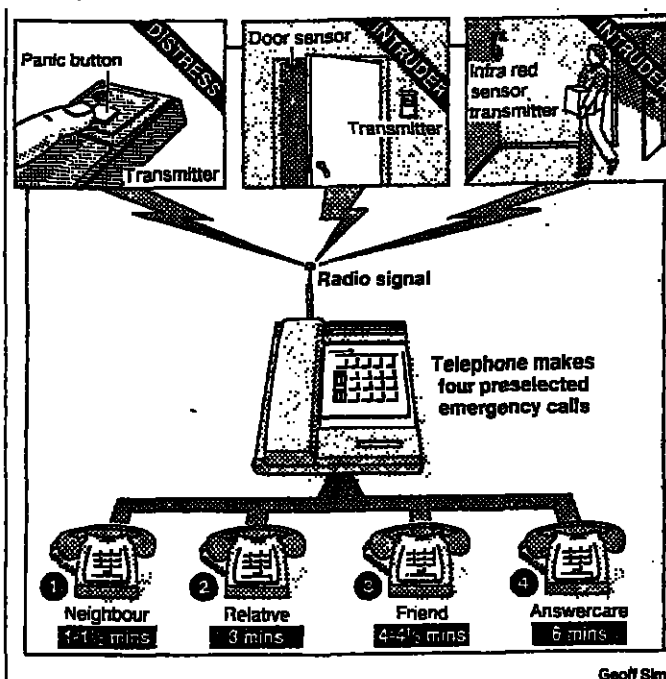
There are also many private systems – Butler & Cox recently estimated around 300 – that are used either by companies to transmit information to their own employees or to others in the same line of business – some travel operators and airlines for example use viewdata extensively to keep travel agents up to date on airline seats and holiday availability.

Viewdata allows information held on a central computer to be accessed via an ordinary telephone line and then to be displayed on a specially adapted television set or monitor.

IBM for example use Prestel to transmit information to its computer engineers at home, but only IBM engineers can access it. Friends Provident use it for insurance brokers. Beechams for its sales force and Gallup for distributing the pop charts to those in the record business. British Telecom have now accepted that only in these specific uses can viewdata and Prestel, for the moment at least, prove cost effective. It has also taken back some form of editorial control in certain areas with the concept of the "managed database".

Here in association with relevant groups it offers specific information for lawyers, doctors, jockeys and others in the horse racing business and the financial community. In fact until last year there was really nothing on Prestel's 300,000 pages that would justify the cost of a viewdata set in the home unless it was there for reasons connected with someone's work.

Now there are two services specifically aimed at the home user. The first is Micronet 800, a service aimed at the home computer enthusiasts. It allows certain micros to be hooked up



No dialling for help

Answercall's UK500 acts not only as a conventional telephone, with 32 programmable memories enabling abbreviated dialling of regularly used numbers, but with the use of optional sensors can automatically dial four nominated numbers and "dictate" a synthesized call for assistance. The sensors can be activated either by smoke or heat to raise a fire alarm, or by the use of infra red detection, may give protection against intruders. One other use can be as a portable "panic button" for the elderly or infirm.

Geoff Sims

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to Prestel. It offers among other things bits of news about computers, an electronic mailbox facility to contact other users and the ability to obtain computer programs down the telephone which can be loaded straight on to a computer.

Some of these programmes are free while others have to be purchased. The second scheme is Homelink, an innovative service offered by the Nottingham Building Society in association with the Bank of Scotland. It is the UK's first experiment in home banking and teleshopping, a potentially huge area for Prestel and the sort of service that could eventually turn it into a mass market product.

Homelink is not automatically available to the general Prestel user. For most of the specific services you have to become a subscriber which means in addition to the general costs of Prestel a fee ranging from around £50 to several hundred per year.

In the case of Homelink, however, it is necessary to invest at least £1,000 with the NBS which then offers a cheap rental on the terminal. Save £4,000 and the terminal is loaned free. Homelink users can pay bills, check electronic statements, and transfer money. Considerably cheaper than

these Prestel services, although far more limited, is Teletext. This is a broadcast system with two services – CeeFax for BBC 1 and 2, and Oracle for ITV and Channel 4. They consist of broadly similar areas including news, stories, television programme information, finance, sport, weather and travel information.

Buying or renting a television set with a decoder is all that is needed to receive it and there are no further charges.

One of the most useful parts of Teletext is its function as an aid for the hard of hearing – several programmes each day are now subtitled via Teletext and synopses of certain other programmes given. When Teletext was first launched it suffered a similar fate to Prestel, offering too little for too much.

Teletext sets now cost only £20 to £30 more than an ordinary one (about £1 a month extra when renting) and have achieved a reasonable level of popularity. In fact the differential in price between Teletext and non-Teletext sets is expected to reduce further and it is envisaged that all sets sold in a few years will have this capability.

Matthew May

Shopping: are you wired in?

Sit down in front of your television set, press a few buttons and order your groceries. Perhaps you want to pay the gas bill on screen as well but just check your bank balance to make sure the electronic cheque won't bounce. And while you're here you can remind your friend about that dinner party next week by sending an electronic letter.

Such possibilities as these have been written about for several years and although they are all technically feasible and available the interactive electronic age has yet to take off in the sense that domestic or business users can dial into the computers of the people they do business with in the same way as they would pick up the telephone.

Britain, like most of the rest of the world, is still at the stage of tests and trials. You can order your groceries via a television set if you don't mind a minimum order of £25 and the necessity of doing all your shopping at Duff & Trotter. Teleshopping has been available via British Telecom's viewdata system Prestel for some time but apart from having a very limited range of suppliers to choose from many of the items on offer would resemble the shopping basket of those for whom fine wine and Scotch salmon was an everyday experience.

More companies are joining – Tesco is conducting a trial in Gateshead with the Gateshead Borough Council and Newcastle University to enable the household to order their groceries via television sets while the Carrefour hypermarket chain will allow West Midlands members of Club 403 to do the same from the end of this month.

The technology to allow a wide range of interactive computer services does exist but there is larger chicken and egg problems. In terms of getting a mass audience for such services few potential users will acquire a terminal while the services remain so limited. Yet without a large terminal population few organisations are willing to go to the time, trouble and expense of setting up these computerised services.

Electronic mail is another prime example – not only can messages be sent instantaneously but if your recipient isn't there the message will be stored until he or she switches the terminal on when the messages will be flashed up. But considering most of the population do not have the facilities to receive electronic mail initial

users are limited to those in particular groups who know that other of a like mind will also have the facility.

If interactive viewdata services such as home banking and teleshopping are to become as common as the telephone then some way has to be found to get a large proportion of the population wired in. It is this need, far more than technical reasons, that most experts agree will delay the advent of widespread interactive services until there is an extensive network of cable channels.

Instead of the government funding that would be necessary to convert televisions to link with the telephone system, cable systems, so the argument runs, will fund themselves. The argument rests on one crucial

assumption: that cable operators potential customers will find that entertainment in the form of cabled films and sport is sufficiently attractive to pay a rate which in the long term will have to cover the cost of installation of the cable itself.

Cable systems are expected to have the capacity for at least 40 channels and once that cabling is paid for then some of the spare channels can be used for interactive viewdata services. All those who sign up for cable entertainment will also be able to have home banking, electronic mail and teleshopping available at a relatively low marginal cost.

British Telecom has already set up a Cable Interactive Services Unit with the specific aim of redistributing the current Prestel system as one of the channel choices as soon as the cable networks become available. Viewdata via cable will also allow more advanced features.

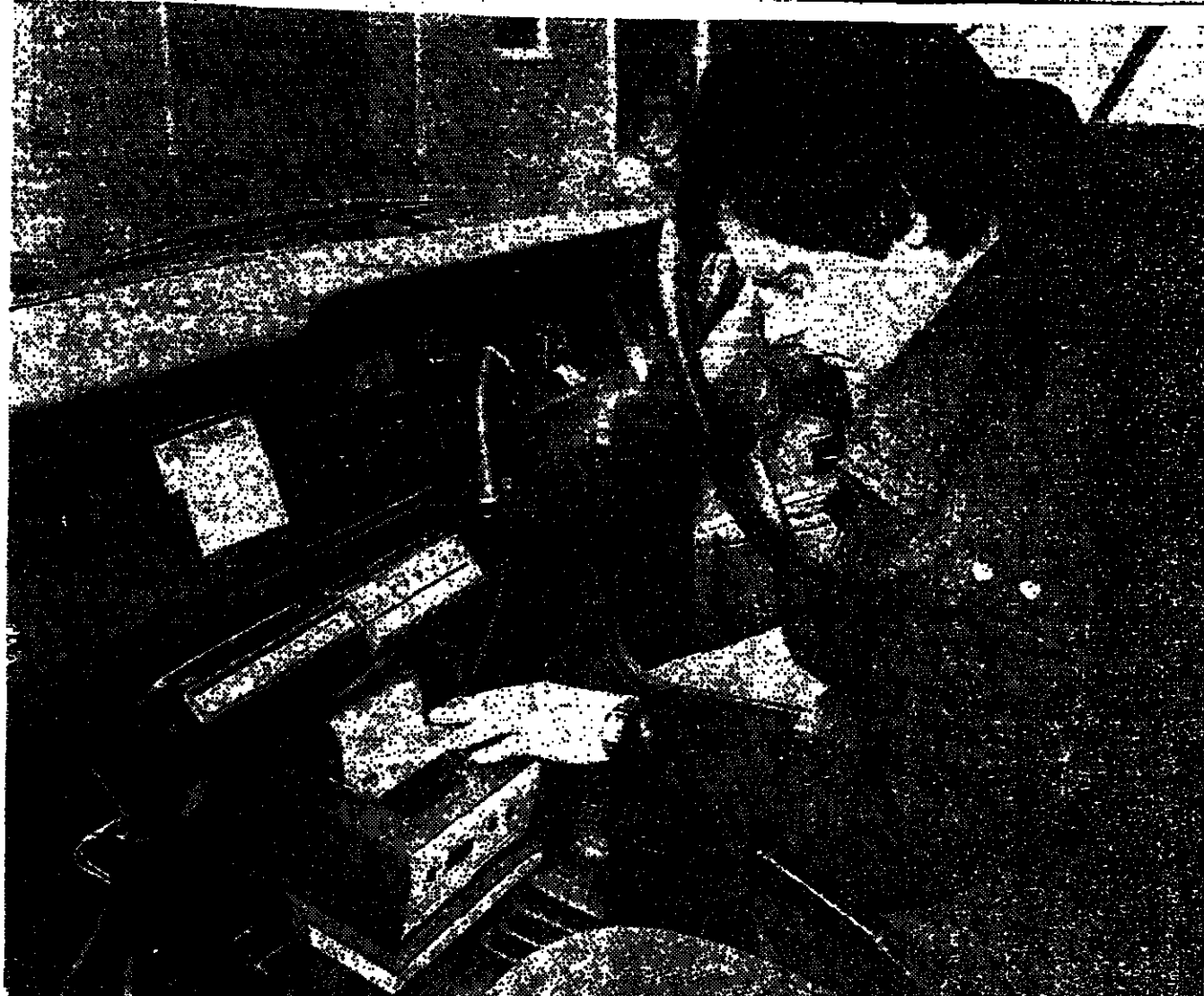
Though Britain invented viewdata it is often other countries that have taken it and refined it. The German PTT purchased the Prestel system from British Telecom and promptly started home banking and teleshopping trials years before they appeared here.

In this country it has been left to the Nottingham Building Society and the Bank of Scotland to start a home banking service, Homelink, on Prestel which has now been followed rather lamely by a service from the Midland Bank which lets you look at statements and order a new cheque book. Homelink, however, is far more extensive allowing you to transfer money between accounts and pay bills directly on screen.

MM



Using a home terminal for Prestel gives users access to a wide range of services including home banking in the shape of Homelink, home shopping and mail facilities. Here, eight-year-old Charles Henderson sends a chess move via the Prestel Mailbox to his opponent.



Mobile communications are carried out by radio mainly employing speech but latest developments include ways to transmit data and graphics. On returning to his car this gas man finds a print out of his next job, sent by digital equipment.

When someone inserts a plastic card into a bank's cash dispenser to withdraw some money, or to check the balance of an account, and then walk away richer or wiser, it is an example of data communication.

It would have been impossible only a few years ago. In the early 1960s, the most common form of data communication was to carry punched cards or reels of magnetic tape from one place to another. Now bank terminals, remote computer entry devices, and bulk electronic transmission of data from dispersed locations to a central processor are only a few of the types of data communication which have become commonplace.

Today they are taken more or less for granted, and the arrival of the data networks is one of the unsung achievements of communication. Indeed, many people probably became aware of the significance of data communication only when the Government made it the first major test of liberalization by giving the go-ahead to Mercury Communications.

In some ways the term "data networks" is misleading. Great quantities of data are sent over circuits which were originally designed to carry voice traffic, and still fulfil this purpose. Other networks have been created more recently with data primarily in mind, but they often also carry voice and facsimile, and even television.

One of the developments that made the transmission of data feasible on a wide scale was a small box of electronics called a modem. All telecommunications authorities were faced with the

The magic modem friend of modern mankind

same problem. They had been set up to run a telephone service, and speech is analogue in character - a continuous, varying waveform. Data is digital, made up of the 0's and 1's of a computer's binary notation.

The problem of sending digital data down analogue telephone lines was solved by the modem. The name comes from modulator/demodulator, because the device modulates the digits at one end of the analogue link, and demodulates them at the other. Suddenly telephone companies were in the data business.

The next big development came with packet switching. Instead of sending a complete message in one unbroken stream, packet switching chops it up into a number of groups, sends them to their destination, and reassembles them on receipt. The technique allows better use of transmission channels, because packets from different users can be interleaved en route.

Now the trend is to make all networks operate digitally throughout, which is more economic and gives better service.

Businesses shopping for data networks today have quite a choice. British Telecom offers its long-standing Datal service, which operates over the telephone network or, at the lower speeds, over telegraph circuits.

BT's public data network began in 1981, when it introduced a packet switched system called PSS - now more trendily dubbed Packet Switch Stream. Typical uses include links to remote databanks, credit card validation, and automatic clearing house transactions.

Sending voice and data across Europe by private satellite

BT expects more business to come from electronic funds transfer at the point of sale, and new types of electronic mail. There is also an International PSS.

Most of BT's digital facilities offer users the chance of sending both voice and data. Grouped under the general title of X-Stream Services, they provide private circuits operating at different transmission rates, called MegaStream and KiloStream. Another service, called SatStream, will offer businesses private satellite links for voice and data across Europe.

Though data communications was emphasized when Mercury was first set up, the company is trying to establish itself as an all-purpose carrier. With the business community in its sights, it must obviously be prepared to offer customers

what they want, and voice communication still far outweighs data volume of traffic.

Mercury's initial digital network links London to Bristol, Birmingham, Leeds and Liverpool in a figure-of-eight pattern, which also takes in most major towns and cities on the way. It is coming into service this year with a mixture of optical fibre cables and microwave radio, but should be totally optical fibre next year.

At the other end of the scale are the local area networks (LANs). These go no further than a single building or group of offices, and allow computers, word processors, peripheral equipment and a variety of terminals to communicate locally.

The LAN business has been characterized by an almost total lack of standards. Manufacturers of computers have produced networks which will operate only with their own systems.

Over the communications horizon is yet another development, the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), which will offer a totally digital system, with the aim of giving end-to-end digital working. The terminal on the desk - which could be a telephone, facsimile machine or microcomputer - will be used to initiate the message, and it will travel digitally until arriving at its ultimate destination.

ISDN is the latest religion of telecommunications, and like some others it has been more preached about than practised. But a start has been made by BT in London with Integrated Digital Access (IDA). Voice and data can be sent at the same time over a single link, and the possibility of transmitting data at 64 kilobits a second opens up the opportunity for fast facsimile and photo videotex.

Eventually, data networks will not be grafted on to existing voice circuits, or set up as separate services, but will form an integral part of a far wider spectrum of communications. Sending data - or for that matter video and graphics - should be as simple as making a telephone call.

Roger Woolnough

Pounds from heaven for ITV, but not for BBC

The television set is the most visible social target of the communications revolution. And deservedly so. Broadcasting possesses a characteristic quite alien to any other communications field: while the rest may look to profit and efficiency as the bywords of business, television companies have, on paper anyway, had to consider social responsibilities before annual accounts.

This duty has not been without its rewards. The most obvious is that although much is made of the ratings war between the BBC and ITV, in a commercial sense there is scarcely any competition between the two. The ITV companies hold an absolute monopoly over television advertising, and one which will not be broken to any great extent, for some years anyway, by the slow arrival of new, independent cable television systems.

That monopoly is likely to be worth close on £1 billion in revenue this year.

It is against this background that one must judge the fitness of the two existing television giants to survive and prosper in the new climate of cable, satellite and pan-European broadcasting. And one should not be too surprised by their reaction to it all, because it has

been summed up in a joint BBC/ITV project to run the direct broadcast by satellite system (DBS) Unisat so beloved of a government panting to be at the front of new communications technology.

The attention of those interested in new television media has focused most recently on the new cable television networks being pursued by 11 companies given licences by the Home Office last year. But cable television is a very different beast from DBS. Expensive to put into the ground, and limited by economics to urban areas, it may end up having to rely on inter-active facilities, such as home banking and shopping services, for a large share of its income.

Direct satellite, if the price is right, represents much more than a slow and expensive entry into urban homes. Through the simple medium of a new aerial, it should offer a completely different form of television to anyone anywhere in the country with the means to receive it. Cable will be socialized, running a wide variety of channels, because it needs to be. DBS offers the creation of three new national television channels the instant it goes on air. No wonder the BBC and the ITV companies, who only two years ago thought that new broadcasting technology meant the end of

their domination of the airwaves, have been so keen to control it.

For the ITV companies, the idea must seem like pounds from heaven. The price of their participation, demanded when it became clear that the BBC would not, as originally planned, go it alone with the first British DBS venture, is an extension of their existing franchises beyond 1988, when they were due to expire, which represents a new phase in British commercial television.

The BBC may not be so well placed. It will have to raise finance for its satellite stake from city loans, since it will be barred from using licence fee money. All it can expect is a majority share of profits from the venture, and they may be slow to arrive. The corporation may still have some doubts about accepting the poisoned chalice of commercialism, but, it reasons, there is no alternative.

The outline terms for the satellite, announced by Lord Brittain, the Home Secretary on Tuesday, give unexpected prominence to the role of independent television producers. They will have the chance of taking a financial stake in the consortium itself, and, for those who could not afford such a large investment, there may well be some form of

quota of British independent programmes to be carried by the three-channel system. Mr Brittain also said that after three years, he will consider applications for competing satellite services for Britain's two remaining vacant channels. Leaving time for the selection process and the period needed to go on air, this means that, after the Unisat launch in 1987 or the year after, genuine satellite competition could follow within six or seven years.

Perhaps the greatest difficulty facing those who have to make tough decisions about future broadcasting policy is the unnerving way in which technological advances can be attained years ahead of bureaucratic decisions about their use.

DBS may be the rage of the moment, but another fire is already being lit underneath the bastions on which it is built: high definition television. Such systems, which are virtually completely developed, offer

television pictures of an astonishing quality by greatly increasing the numbers of lines and dots used to determine the screen image. Combined with home computer technology, which is already being frustrated by the present level of colour screen definition, and a new generation of flat screen TVs, they could revolutionize the use of the home television set.

David Hewson
Arts correspondent

Too cramped for space

In the vast expanse of space, there is only one location from which communication satellites can operate effectively. This is the point 22,300 miles above the earth, the so-called geostationary orbit. It is here that satellites circle the earth at the same speed as the earth's rotation, and appear to hover above one spot.

But so popular has the geostationary orbit become that there could soon be a traffic jam in space. For practical reasons, there are at present only 120 satellite positions round the earth's equatorial circumference, yet the world's demand for more and more communications channels shows no sign of slackening.

Since the first commercial communications satellite, Intelsat I, was launched in April 1965 there has been a tremendous growth not only in international voice communication, but also in the transmission of data between computers. Television distribution, which used to be only between broadcasting organizations, now includes many channels to feed the growing number of cable networks.

In the United States, more than 120 TV channels can be received from 17 satellites, and similar services have recently started in Europe. Now interest is concentrating on direct

broadcasting satellites (DBS), which will allow viewers to receive TV programmes directly from space on small dishes.

Slightly larger dishes are becoming common on roofs or in car parks as businesses make greater use of satellites to improve widespread internal communications. And the time is long past when most countries were prepared to share the facilities of Intelsat for international communications. Now they also want satellites of their own - the British, the French, the Germans, the Scandinavians, the Japanese, the Arabs, the Africans...

Technology is coping with this demand surprisingly well. The biggest single advance has been in the increasing capacity of each new generation of satellites. Intelsat I in 1965 provided only 240 voice circuits and one TV channel. The latest in the series, Intelsat V, provides 12,000 circuits and two TV channels.

ECS-1, the European Communications Satellite shared by seven nations, has nine operational transponders, each of which can handle either 1,800 two-way telephone circuits or one colour TV service. Later satellites in the ECS series will have even greater capacity.

According to some, even this vastly increased capacity will not mean a glut of communi-

cations channels, though some may be sceptical. Space may be infinite, but is the need for space communications?

Certainly a shadow has fallen over the sunniest prophecies for DBS. Three years ago, the then director general of BBC, Sir Ian Trethowan, was saying the DBS represented a revolution in the technology of broadcasting. In March 1982 the government decided that the BBC should start transmitting two DBS channels from 1986, and amid the general euphoria a new consortium was formed by British Aerospace, Marconi and British Telecom to build the satellite.

Less than two years later Alasdair Milne, Sir Ian's successor, said that a vast range of complications had developed since the initial decision on DBS was taken. The sums needed to build and launch the satellites, the cost of programming, and questions about whether enough viewers would pay to receive DBS have all brought a chilling sense of reality.

Britain is not alone in this. France has been having second thoughts about the role of its TDF-1 satellite - a controversy made more pungent by the fact that Luxembourg had proposed a commercial DBS service to blanket most of Europe. French opponents of DBS said the money would be better spent on cable networks.

If DBS fails to fulfil its earlier expectations, at least it should mean that more channels will be available for telephony and data, about which there are no doubts regarding future demand.

As it is now economic to use relatively small dishes for business communications, the number of operators is likely to take a further leap forward. British Telecom International is offering its SatStream services, which use dishes measuring typically 12-18 feet that can be sited on business premises. High-speed private digital links will operate over Intelsat, ECS and the French Telecom-1 satellites, and will give dish-to-dish communication from Madrid to the Shetlands, and from Sweden to Greece.

Eventually, supply may catch up with demand, but that time is probably well in the future.

R.W.



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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Dearer money threatens Atlantic credit boom

In the first year after an election victory Mrs Thatcher and her Chancellor can afford an objective view of higher interest rates. In the run up to what may well be a closely contested American presidential election, Mr Reagan can't. His inner fear is that charges of financial and economic mismanagement might unseat him: hence the White House's crude assertion that the Federal Reserve Board is to blame for higher American interest rates through its failure to supply enough money to finance US economic growth. The point in yesterday's resignation of Mr Martin Feldstein, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, is that only decisive action against the budget deficit of the kind President Reagan will not take would stand a chance of stemming the rising tide of dearer money.

This clash of irresistible force and immovable object on the other side of the Atlantic does not bode well for the cost of money here. Both money and gilt-edged markets in London have been pressing hard for a higher formal interest rate structure, and despite the fudging and various interpretations offered, Tuesday's money supply figures really clinched the argument. Yesterday they got it. National Westminster and Lloyds duly raised their base rates by a half point to 9 per cent; Barclays moved up a half to 9½ per cent and Midland three-quarters to 9¼ per cent.

The markets were fairly relaxed during the morning, but not least because of the Midland's decision to try to extract some much needed succour from the situation, they later lost their equilibrium. The pattern was most discernible at the very long end of the gilt-edged market where prices swung through a range of one and a quarter points.

If the markets are right – and they will surely be strengthened in their conviction by the words of Dr Henry Kaufman, who arrives in London today from his sanctuary of supreme authority at Salomon Brothers in New York – the rise in UK interest rates has only begun. How far it will go is another question.

Predictably, Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, is already lamenting both the event and the prospect on industry's behalf. There is, it is true, the issue of confidence, generated by Mrs Thatcher's second election victory and fanned by political promises of still cheaper money. Willing confidence and a protracted regime of higher interest rates would also probably spell the end of the current bull market in equities – which would not be to the industry's nor the Government's advantage (bearing in mind the heavy privatization programme).

However "the industry argument" bears much closer examination. One of the fascinating facts of current industrial life is the cash mountain on which the industrial and commercial sector is now sitting. In sharp contrast with 1982, last year saw companies building up liquid assets to the remarkable tune of £6.6 billion. In the last quarter of the year they allowed themselves the luxury of repaying bank borrowings. There is no reason to suppose that this process of garnering in cash and repaying short-term debt has not continued this year.

Thus, an army of corporate treasurers will see yesterday's (and any further) increases in bank base rates as raising their income and enhancing their incentive to return money to their banking creditors.

Financially speaking, the real sufferers from rising interest rates will not be companies, they will be individuals, or the Conservative electorate by another name. As the corporate sector has followed the virtuous path of debt repayment, the

private sector has gone overboard into debt, thereby sustaining its own spending ambitions and economic recovery. Money has been borrowed from the banks and elsewhere as if there were no tomorrow. Outstanding instalment debt is sky high.

Obviously the cost of these borrowings is now higher and should interest rates continue to go up, then there is likely to be some drawing in of consumer horns. To be fair, this point has not yet been reached, and depending crucially on the later responses of the building societies, it may not be reached before the tide of rates turns in the United States.

It is difficult, however, to be sanguine about the American scene this side of the election, and perhaps not for some time thereafter. We have a consumer credit boom here but it is a shadow of the Americans'. The rise in US consumer loans so far this year, as the learned Dr Kaufman points out, "has no precedent in prior years." This flood tide of new credit "is overtaxing the available supply of funds, threatening further increases in interest rates and fresh capital losses on fixed-rate assets".

The financial weather over the Atlantic is distinctly cloudy.

Suitors turn towards out-of-town firms

The debate about the future shape of the Stock Exchange has concentrated on which of a range of wealthy suitors will win the hand of the big firms and, to a lesser extent, the plaintive cries of smaller London brokers who fear that they will be severely squeezed by more open competition, to the possible detriment of the investing public. Attention is now beginning to turn to the serious ranks of the provincial stockbrokers, which cover nearly every town of any size, including those of the Republic of Ireland. The Stock Exchange and the Irish rugby union team are two of the very few organizations which now straddle the border.

These relatively small firms, often consisting of only two partners, have a far closer and more long-standing relationship with the private investor than their grander brethren in and around Throgmorton Street. They possess valuable mailing lists of financially attuned people who might be persuaded to consider all sorts of other savings products. Yet they are not attempting to attract anything like the fancy valuations paid for equity stakes in London firms.

So far only one or two businessmen have bought into provincial brokers, as Mr Michael Ashcroft's Hawley Group has done with Fyfe, Horton Finney & Co. in Birmingham.

There is a considerable case to be made for the creation of regional financial conglomerates taking in a stockbroker or jobber, an insurance broker and an estate agent. The high street element could be strengthened by grouping around a prominent local retailer. Such a combination could do much to protect its members against the unpredictable excesses of the revolution in financial services which is about to break upon us.

The Times 1984 Budget briefing

The briefing will take place at the Dorchester Hotel on May 22, with myself as chairman. The principal speaker is Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury who will explain the strategic thinking behind the Chancellor's radical tax reforms. Information may be obtained and bookings made by telephoning 01-405 3501.

LBS backs narrow money

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The London Business School has rallied to the cause of the Government's much-aligned narrow money target. In the latest issue of its *Financial Outlook*, published today, the LBS rejects widespread criticism of the use of M0 alongside Sterling M3 as a monetary target and argues that it is a sensible addition to the government's armoury.

The new measure, which consists mainly of notes and coins in circulation as well as cash held by banks and banks' operational balances with the Bank of England, was introduced in the Budget to replace M1, which had become distorted by developments in the banking sector.

However, the latest measure has been extensively criticized in the City as a guide to short-term interest rate policy and the Bank of England is known to have had reservations.

Productivity setback to French car firm

Few takers for Poissy pay-offs

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Plans by the French Talbot Motors Group – hit by anti-redundancy riots this year – to reduce its overmanned workforce by paid repatriation of foreign workers are failing.

So far only a few hundred workers have taken the money and gone home. The company, owned by Peugeot said yesterday, however, that in the few months since the violence erupted at the Poissy factory, near Paris, the problem had been "totally forgotten".

Talbot has embarked on an ambitious £1.200m (£103.44m) investment programme – including £500m in low-interest government loans – since the January riots, in the hope of quelling fears that the French and British operations would be run down if not closed. While this has for the moment succeeded, Talbot is frustrated in its hope of matching European motor industry productivity levels.

Under half of the 10,000 shop floor workers at Poissy are French; 33 per cent are Moroccan, 6 per cent are Algerian and the remainder are Spanish, Italian, Cambodian, Portuguese, Turkish, Tunisian or African.

The company has implemented 2,000 redundancies, but has met government resistance to laying off a further 1,000.

A repatriation allowance of about £5,000 has proved insufficient to persuade immigrant workers to leave voluntarily.

Other reasons are the fear that jobs would be difficult for the workers to find in their own countries and the fact that the children of some immigrants regard themselves as French who may have difficulties adjusting to life in North Africa.

More than 200 journalists from most European countries have been invited to the Poissy plant in a bid by the company

to stress how well the operation is progressing.

British journalists, at the plant yesterday for the first time since the January disturbances were told by the Talbot management that an estimated 400 more immigrant workers would leave if the financial incentive was greater.

Peugeot, which last February last year, is now planning hopes on the success of the C28, a new range of medium cars to be built at Poissy and at the Talbot factory at Ryton near Coventry and due to be launched in Britain next year.

The cars are almost certainly to carry the Talbot badge, but the range could be the last before the company reverts to the use of the Peugeot name on the majority of its models. More than half of the Poissy output now comprises Peugeot cars.

Trafalgar awaits verdict on Sealink

By Ian Griffiths

A Government decision on whether to allow P&O to bid for the soon-to-be-privatized Sealink is expected next week.

On this decision could hinge the chances of a renewed assault on P&O by Trafalgar House.

Mr Nigel Brookes, Trafalgar House chairman, has put the chances of renewing the bid at slightly less than 50-50.

If P&O is ruled out, it could prevent an early bid by Trafalgar. Last year's attempt to take over P&O foundered when the bid was referred to the Monopolies Commission – even though the inquiry eventually gave the go-ahead.

Trafalgar has also expressed an interest in Sealink and Mr Brookes is conscious that if he gains control – but only after P&O had been prevented from bidding – it could mean another referral to the Monopolies Commission.

In the six months to March 31, 1984, Trafalgar House reported pretax profits of £45.9m compared to £33.5m last year. The increase came entirely from oil and gas production. Turnover was £701m, up from £614m last year. An interim dividend of 4.7p is to be paid (4p) and for the year as a whole a total of 10p is contemplated (8.5p).

The Government decision on which companies will be allowed to bid for Sealink also affects European Ferries which like P&O, is in danger of being ruled out next week. There was a shock for its small shareholders yesterday when the company announced a capital reorganization which will alter their rights to keep their park of cheap cross-Channel crossings.

In a one-for-one issue shareholders will be asked to choose between new ordinary shares, identical to the ones they now hold but without the concession on cheap fares.

In 1983 European Ferries reported pretax profits of £44.1m, up from £30.6m. Turnover also increased from £292.9m to £322.9m. The final dividend of 2.7p makes 3.8p for the year 3.35p.

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Nigel Brookes: Bid may mean a new inquiry

Bankers propose rate 'cap' on Third World debt

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Leading central bankers and international officials ended their closed door session on the Third World debt crisis yesterday with the bare bones of a negotiating position on a long-term solution, which will be presented at the London economic summit next month.

Monetary sources said the three-day meeting attended by 35 carefully selected officials – including Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the US central bank and Mr Christopher McMahon, deputy governor of the Bank of England – concluded with an agreement to press for a cap on interest rates charged to Third World nations by presenting a package to western leaders gathered at the summit.

It would include a cap on rates charged to developing nations at present surging under a \$600 billion (£343

billion) debt load to be accompanied by a new international insurance mechanism, backed by leading governments, to safeguard the interests of commercial banks and relax regulatory standards for banks.

In addition, the officials from industrialized and Third World nations, discussed a proposal to raise a huge fund estimated at \$100 billion to convert short-term debt into longer-term debt and thus prevent a feared "liquidity squeeze" in the years ahead, sources said.

Under the proposal, responsibility for the super fund would be spread among governments of the industrialized nations and international institutions, including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which would be authorized to borrow funds on capital markets.

Sources said a variety of other longer term solutions to the growing debt problems were pursued at the meeting, but agreement was reached only on the proposal to pursue the cap on rising interest rates at the summit and other international meetings.

Mr Felix Rohatyn, chairman of the New York Municipal Assistance said the real importance of the closely-guarded meeting was that, "reality is finally finding its way to the top" among leaders of the world's public and private financial institutions who had minimized the continuing threat of the debt crisis.

The interest rate cap, which was first floated by Mr Anthony Solomon, president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, has been strongly supported by the US central bank, which has

been attempting to persuade international banks to limit interest charges on the vast debt owed by Third World nations.

After a new rise in US rates the pressure to curtail rates and find a longer term solution to the debt problem has grown. Officials estimated that each one point rise in interest rates adds \$3.5 billion to the debt of Third World nations, which have been demanding relief in the form of stretched-out payments.

At the New York meeting, officials reportedly worked out the details of how a cap on interest rates would work:

It would be accomplished by allowing banks to divide the interest due to them into two parts, a real or inflation-corrected part in addition to an inflation premium: due to banks.

£13m cash call by Amstrad

By Jonathan Clare

Shareholders in Amstrad Consumer Electronics, the fastest growing company in the field, are being asked to dig deep into their pockets to raise nearly £13m to finance the launch of its new CPC 464 home computer.

Details of the one-for-six rights issue announced yesterday include a less than bullish profits forecast (at least on Amstrad's previous track record) "in excess of £9m", against £8m for the year to June. Analysts had previously expected about £10.5m. The forecast total dividend is 0.68p.

Kleinwort Benson, Amstrad's merchant bank, pointed out yesterday that at 85p the issue was at a fairly large discount to the market price of 104p, down 4p. The shares have been higher than 120p in the last two weeks.

The cash is needed to help finance sales of the Korean-made CPC 464 during its initial marketing through high-street retailers. The computers, with orders already accounting for seven months' production of 200,000 units, will mean a "massive" increase in turnover which will have to be financed.

Development costs will be entirely borne this year and profits will not come through until 1985, when Amstrad hopes to sell 600,000 units.

The chairman, Mr Alan Sugar is not taking up his rights and the shares thus made available have been pre-placed with institutions, diluting it 58.9 stake to 30.5 per cent.



International flavour: joining the Reuters board (from left): Mr Wriston, Mr Hogg and Mr Gyllenhammar.

Reuters recruits directors abroad

By Philip Robinson

Three international businessmen have been appointed to the board of Reuters Holdings in a significant reshuffle before the news and business information agency becomes a public company later this month.

Mr Pehr Gyllenhammar, chairman of Volvo, Mr Christopher Hogg, chairman of Courtaulds and Mr Walter Wriston, chairman of Citicorp, one of America's top two banks, were chosen to reflect the international spread of Reuters' activities. These non-executive directors will represent the interests of the ordinary, non-pressure shareholders once the agency has a stock exchange quotation.

Sir Denis Hamilton, aged 65, remains chairman of the company but there is speculation that he may decide to stand down.

Newcomers to the board as representatives of the provincial newspapers via the Press

Association, are Mr James Evans, joint deputy managing director of International Thomson Organisation, and Mr Donald Anderson, a director of Business Press International.

New faces from the Newspaper Publishers Association are Mr Peter Gibbins, chairman of The Guardian and Manchester Evening News, and Mr Ian Irvine, managing director of Fleet Holdings.

Today an announcement is expected from the Reuters Trustees which should name at least three new members, including one from the US.

Next Wednesday, the details of Reuters Holdings flotation is to be published simultaneously in London and New York. A range of between 200p and 220p is expected after testing American institutional support.

A price around 180p is likely as the minimum figure acceptable when the London prospectus goes out to tender.

£700,000 'handshake'

Three ex-directors of the William Press building group have shared a "golden handshake" worth £700,000. This payout is revealed in the full first annual report from the AMEC group, the civil engineering combine formed by the £160m merger of Press and Fairclough Construction in 1982.

The compensation went to Mr Ray Daniels, the former Press chief executive, Mr Tony Hawken, the former chairman, who both left last August and to Mr Alan Gravellius who left in November.

The Amec report says the compensation followed "detailed and extensive advice from its legal and financial advisers."

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1109.9 down 7.7 (high: 1120.5; low: 1109.7)
FT Index: 898.2 down 8.6
FT Gilts: 80.48 down 0.6
FT All Share: 527.28, unchanged
Bargains: 20.05
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 118.54 up 0.39
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1,173.89 down 2.41
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 11,060.28 up 7.85
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 393.71 down 26.34

CURRENCIES

STERLING
\$1.3900 up 85pts
Index 80.0 unchanged
DM 3.8450 down 0.0050
FF 11.7850 down 0.0150
Yen 318.25 up 1.25
Dollar
Index 81.6 down 0.1
DM 2.7570 down 0.0005
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling DM 2.7667
Dollar DM 2.7667
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 20.5846
SDR 20.748462

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 8, 9½
Finance houses base rate 9
Discount market loans week fixer 1 ½-2
3 month interbank 9½-9¾
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 11½-11¾
3 month DM 6-6½
3 month Fr 12½-12¾
US rates:
Bank prime rate 12.50
Fed funds 10½
Treasury long bond 9½-9¾
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period April 4, 1984 to May 1, 1984, inclusive: 8.934 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$372.65 pm \$372.60
close \$372.75-373.25 (£268.75-269.25)
New York (latest): \$373.25
Kruggerand (per coin): \$384-385.50 (£277-278)
Sovereigns (new): \$87-88 (£262.75-263.50)
Excludes VAT

Matthew Hall

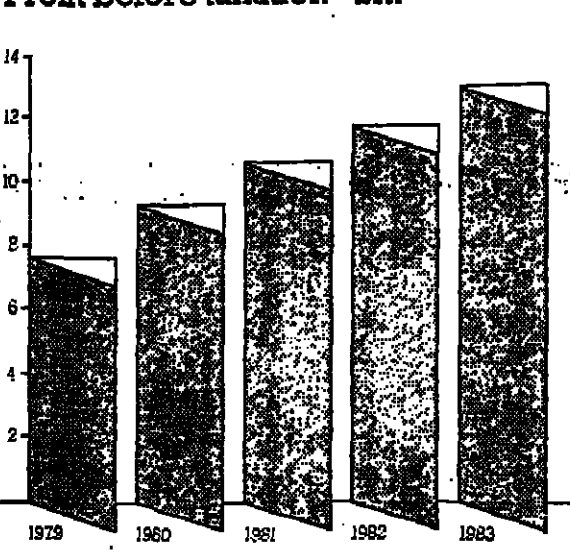
Public Limited Company

INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING DESIGNERS AND CONTRACTORS

Continuing Progress

- Pre-tax profit up over 10% from £11.6m to £12.9m.
- UK and Brazil made improved contributions to oil, gas, chemical and mining sectors' results but USA and S.E. Asia continue to suffer from low activity and intense competition.
- Mechanical and electrical sector had a record year.
- Final dividend up from 4.944p to 5.725p – an increase of 14% overall for the year.
- Group in strong financial position for 1984 with satisfactory levels of work in hand except in oil, gas, chemical and mining sectors overseas.

Profit before taxation – £m



Summary of Results

	1983 £000	1982 £000
Turnover	361,165	413,154
Value added	187,195	177,569
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	12,862	11,635
Taxation	7,080	3,981
Profit attributable to shareholders	3,903	7,653
Shareholders' funds	42,936	40,592
Dividends per share	7.0p	6.139p
Earnings per share	16.91p	22.39p

The Summary of Results shown above is an abridged version of the audited accounts which have been and will be filed with the Registrar of Companies. The Auditors' reports are unqualified.

The Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held on Friday, 1st June, 1984.

Copies of the Annual Report 1983, containing the Chairman's Statement in full and a Review of the Year may be obtained from the Secretary.

Matthew Hall PLC, Matthew Hall House, 7 Baker Street, London W1M 1AB. Telephone: 01-935 9394.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Goldsmith set for US investment

Sir James Goldsmith, the financier, is preparing for another significant acquisition. Yesterday General Oriental, his Hongkong company, announced that it had sold its industrial interests in the north-west of the US for US\$168m (£120m).

From his New York office, Sir James commented: "We are looking at some new investments. We are now well placed for our next move, and nothing we shall do will be of a minor nature." He indicated that no deal was imminent, but that it would probably be in the US because assets were cheaper there than elsewhere at the moment. "Britain seems attractive but is relatively expensive," he said.

Yesterday sale included Diamond Participations of Idaho, sold for \$139m, and a chain of Oregon lumber mills valued at \$29.3m. Both were sold to an unnamed US consortium.

● Barclays Bank has launched a high-interest current account, called Prime Account. Minimum deposit is £2,500, on which customers receive a money market-related rate of interest presently 8.75 per cent (9.04 per cent annual rate), plus one free standing order a month and six cheques free monthly.

● LEE COOPER, the world's fourth biggest jeans maker, saw profits slip from £9.8m to £8.2m on turnover down from £86.5m to £83.2m.

Tempus, page 20

Standard Chartered Bank

announces that on and after 10 May 1984 its Base Rate for lending is being increased from 8½% to 9¼% p.a.

The interest rate payable on deposit accounts subject to seven days notice of withdrawal will be increased from 5¼% to 6% p.a. The interest rate payable on High Interest deposit accounts subject to twenty one days notice of withdrawal will be increased from 6¼% to 7% p.a.

Standard Chartered

Dawson pays £30m for US knitwear specialist

By Philip Robinson

Dawson International, the Scottish specialist yarn maker developing a world-wide strategy under its new chairman, Mr Ronald Miller, announced yesterday that it had acquired J. E. Morgan Knitting Mills, an American specialist in thermal underwear, for £30m.

It is the first US buy for Dawson, which is paying the \$42.5m purchase price with seven million new shares placed in London and the balance from a five-year dollar loan.

Mr Miller said that it was Dawson's aim to widen its geographic manufacturing base, specifically in countries with significant consumer spending power.

Last July, Dawson spent £7m cash on Kammergarnspinnerei Wilhelmshaven, West Germany's leading spinning yarn company.

J. E. Morgan's main asset is Waffle. It is the name of the special knitting method which produces clothes with "thermal" properties. The group has

a third of the US thermal underwear market - double that of its nearest rival - which accounts for 85 per cent of its manufacturing. The remainder consists of baby products like blankets.

Mr Miller said: "Mr Morgan did not want to sell and we spent a long time looking for the right kind of investment."

Mr Morgan, aged 73, also takes with him \$7.8m (£5.65m) in dividends paid by his company last year.

In that year, Morgan produced pretax profits of \$9.4m on sales of \$43.7m.

After the acquisition, Mr Morgan will become chairman of the company, and Mr Philip Kemp, a senior Dawson executive in America, will become its chief executive.

Dawson intends to pay a 4.9p final dividend which, with the interim, gives a total 7.3p for the year - a 12 per cent increase.

In the stock market the shares closed unchanged at 22½p.

Budget bites biscuit profit

Profits of United Biscuits, McVitie's and Crawford's biscuit group, will be dented by a £1.5m extraordinary charge to provide for deferred tax in the wake of the Budget measures on capital allowances and corporation tax.

This was disclosed by the chairman, Sir Hector Laing, at the Company's yearly meeting in Edinburgh yesterday. But he reassured shareholders that there was likely to be a modest increase on last year's buoyant outlook for the full year remained very satisfactory.

Sir Hector said that US shopkeepers had allocated an extra 5.3 miles of shelf space to make room for a new soft cookie made by the group, called Soft Batch.

W N SHARPE: Hallmark Cards (Holdings) has received acceptances for 96 per cent of ordinary shares and 89.98 per cent of "A" non-voting ordinary shares. Offers remain open.

AULT AND WIBORG: Company is holding talks with Sun Chemical on refinancing bank borrowings and providing funds for expenditure and expansion. In addition to bank facilities, Ault's financing is likely to include a rights issue of equity or subordinated loan capital, underwritten by Sun.

GODWIN WARREN CONTROL SYSTEMS (USM quotation): Total net dividend, 1.4p as forecast, for 1983. Turnover £3.39m (£3.08m). Pretax profit £309,000 (£201,000). Prospects for 1984 look encouraging, with record orders.

ASSOCIATED PAPER INDUSTRIES: Half-year to March 31, 1984. On sales up from £17.59m to £22.95m, pretax profits doubled to £1.89m (against £905,000 last time). Interim payment, 1.5p (1.2p) net.

MILBURY: Milbury has acquired the 54 acres of residential building land and work in progress of E.G.M. Cape for £4.65m.

FOSTER BROTHERS CLOTHING: Year to Feb 29, 1984. Sales £101.7m (£82.52m). Pretax profit £8.3m (£5.03). Dividend, net, 4p (3.35p). Current year has started well, with worthwhile rise in profits likely.

PENNINE RESOURCES: US offshoot is to buy a block of petroleum-related and real estate assets, located in and around Chanute, Kansas, for \$1.25m cash (about £900,000).

Assets have an appraised or mutually agreed value of about \$8m.

DERBY TRUST: Board proposes that capital shares of 30p each be sub-divided into shares of 10p each and £1 income shares into ones of 25p each. Also proposed to make an issue to holders of capital shares of warrants to subscribe capital shares after the sub-division on a one-for-five basis.

EXTERNAL INVESTMENT TRUST: Total dividend, 10.75p (10p) a share for year to March 31, 1984. Pretax revenue £1.23m (£1.2m).

HUGH MACKAY: Chairman, Mr John Mackay, told the annual meeting that intake of orders, production and despatches were all materially up on a year ago and slightly better than the fourth quarter of 1983.

J and J MAKIN PAPER MILLS: Reorganization of Makin's capital in connexion with J Bibby's offer for Makin is now effective. Bibby now holds 96 per cent of Makin.

MATTHEW HALL: In his annual statement, chairman Mr Dennis Garrett, says the group is in a strong financial position and with the exception of overseas oil, gas and mining engineering offshoots, has satisfactory levels of work in hand.

He says: "Although we realise that 1984 will be a difficult year, we anticipate that it will be one which will enable the group to produce a satisfactory result."

SPRAT: Of the 15 million ordinary shares offered for sale in Save and Prosper Return of Assets Investment Trust, 11.25 million were underwritten firm.

For the balance of 3.75 million, applications were received for 4.57 million.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9½%
Barclays	8½%
BCCI	9½%
Citibank Savings	9½%
Consolidated Crds	8½%
Continental Trust	8½%
C. Hoare & Co	8½%
Lloyds Bank	8½%
Midland Bank	8½%
Nat Westminster	8½%
TSB	9½%
Williams & Glyn's	8½%

† Mortgage Base Rate

7 day deposits on basis of tender
£10,000 Min, £100,000 up to
£50,000 Min, £100,000 up to
£100,000 Min, £100,000 up to
£100,000 Min, £100,000 up to



Scottish Life Investments

INSURANCE FUNDS

Net Assets	Share Price	Offer Price
Managed Property	99.7	100.0
UK Equities	101.0	101.0
US Equities	101.0	101.0
European	101.0	101.0
International	101.0	101.0
Fixed Interest	101.0	101.0
Index Linked	101.0	101.0
Capital	101.0	101.0
Growth	101.0	101.0
Pen Managed	101.0	101.0
Pen Property	101.0	101.0
Pen UK Equities	101.0	101.0
Pen American	101.0	101.0
Pen Pacific	101.0	101.0
Pen European	101.0	101.0
Pen Int'l	101.0	101.0
Pen Fixed Int	101.0	101.0
Pen Index Link	101.0	101.0
Pen Capital	101.0	101.0

Scottish Life
19 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh
Telephone: 031-225 2211

PETROGEN PETROLEUM, INC.

(Incorporated with limited liability in the United States of America under the laws of the State of Colorado)

Offer for Sale

4,000,000 Shares of Common Stock of no par value

LAING & CRUICKSHANK
Incorporating McAnally, Montgomery & Co

at 80p per share payable in full on application

Authorised	Share Capital	Issued and to be issued
20,000,000	Shares of Common Stock of no par value	10,342,863

Application Lists for the shares of Common Stock of no par value will open at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 15th May 1984 and may be closed at any time thereafter

PetroGen Petroleum, Inc. is engaged in oil and gas production in the United States of America. It will also participate with drilling programmes in the completion of wells on drilling prospects found by the Company in the United States of America. It has been awarded a joint licence, subject to endorsement by the Danish Parliament, for oil and gas exploration in Denmark.

Further particulars of PetroGen Petroleum, Inc. and its business are available in a prospectus (which includes an application form) from the External Statistical Service. Copies of the prospectus and of the particulars available in the External Statistical Service are available from:-

LAING & CRUICKSHANK Incorporating McAnally, Montgomery & Co. Piercy House, 7, Captham Avenue, London EC2R 7BE	NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC Colmore Centre 103, Colmore Row Birmingham B3 3NS	NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC 55 King Street Manchester M60 2DB	NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC 80 George Street Edinburgh EH2 3DZ	NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK PLC New Issues Department P.O. Box 79, 2 Princes Street London EC2P 2BD
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and also at Laing & Cruickshank's offices in Belfast, Eastbourne, Glasgow and Taunton

SOONER OR LATER ALL BUILDINGS NEED TO BE REFURBISHED

Laing have been putting new life into old buildings for over half a century. It's this experience that enables Laing to keep disruption to a minimum. As the largest national refurbishment contractor in the country, Laing are able to draw on considerable skill, resources, proven

experience, expertise, and financial stability. The result is faster completion, closer co-operation, much higher standards, and competitive costs. Contact Christopher Laing to find out more.

LAING
John Laing Construction Ltd., Page Street
Mill Hill, London NW7 2AA. Tel: 01-916 2411

European Ferries Plc

Reorganisation of share capital and rights to concessionary fares

The Directors of European Ferries Plc, supported by the Company's financial advisers, S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., strongly believe that the proposed changes in the share structure of the Company described below are fair and in the best interests of all shareholders.

For the past 25 years the Company has offered individual shareholders considerable fare reductions on certain Townsend Thoresen sailings. These concessions have not been available to shareholders as of right, but the Board, in exercise of its discretion, has reviewed, amended and then renewed them every year. The number of shareholders entitled to the concessions has now grown to over 160,000 - an increase of 60,000 over the last three years alone. Until now the concessions have been available to all shareholders as well as to the Company but the Board has decided that the concessions cannot be made available much more widely. The cost and the administrative burden will shortly become too great and, if this were to happen, the concessions would have to end or be seriously curtailed. The Board wants to avoid this and that is why these proposals are being put to shareholders.

The concessions have not been available to corporate shareholders, whose interest is therefore

restricted to profits and dividends. Over the years, this has led to two distinctly different groups of shareholder: those who own shares essentially because of the concessions and those who do not.

In order to balance the priorities of each group, the Board is proposing to give all shareholders the choice of holding different categories of share. One is designed for shareholders who regard European Ferries Plc as an investment. The other is for shareholders who would prefer the continuing benefit of the fare concessions. Shareholders will be free to

choose either or both categories. Tax counsel has advised that the exchange of shares will not result in a tax charge in the United Kingdom.

No changes in Company policies or management are envisaged as a result of these proposals.

Below is a short guide which gives more information about the proposals. It is expected that full details will be sent to shareholders on 30th May 1984, together with the Annual Report and Accounts for 1983.

THE PROPOSALS

Shareholders will have a free choice and will be able to exchange their existing shares on a one-for-one basis for:

New ordinary shares with a par value of 25p each

OR

New preference shares with a par value of £1 each

OR

A combination of the two

Application will be made for both the new classes of shares to be listed on the London Stock Exchange.

The new shares will be transferable and their market value will be established only when listing takes place.

New ordinary shares

- will continue to entitle shareholders to receive dividends based on results and to the prospect of capital growth.
- will entitle shareholders to a greater proportionate share of Group profits, the extent of which will depend on the number of new preference shares issued.
- will continue to give shareholders a full vote in the affairs of the Group.
- but will not qualify for concessionary fares.

How many new preference shares will shareholders need?

- individual shareholders with at least 300 preference shares will continue to qualify for the full concessions for travel before 1st January, 1988.
- for travel on or after 1st January, 1988, individual shareholders with at least 600 preference shares will continue to qualify for the full concessions. Those with between 300 and 599 preference shares will then be entitled to only half the value of the concessions.
- If shareholders want to increase their holding to 600 preference shares, they will be able to do so by purchasing shares on the stock market.

New preference shares

- will give individual shareholders the right to the existing fare concessions of up to 30 per cent on ferry sailings for 15 years or more.
- will entitle individual shareholders to an unlimited number of concessionary crossings in a year. The value of the concessions will increase as fares rise.
- will carry a fixed preferential dividend, which will give shareholders a 30 per cent increase in income compared with that received now.
- will be redeemed at their par value of £1, plus a premium of 20p per share, either in 1999 or when the concessions end if they are continued after that date.
- but will have limited voting rights.

How long will the concessions last?

- it is the Board's firm intention to maintain the concessions for at least 15 years but, if they were to become practically or legally impossible, or materially prejudicial to the preference shareholders or to the Company or to both, the Board might be forced to terminate the concessions. Such a decision would be taken only with the support of independent advisers. If the concessions were terminated within the 15 years, preference shareholders would automatically be entitled to a higher dividend, with a view to each of their shares having a market value of at least £1 at that time.

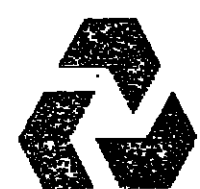
It is expected that full details of the proposals will be sent to shareholders on 30th May, 1984. Shareholders will be able to vote on the proposals either in person or by proxy at meetings of which they will be notified.

Following approval of the proposals by shareholders, because of the way the reorganisation is structured, they will have to be sanctioned by the High Court. Once this has happened, shareholders will be sent Forms of Election and will have four weeks in which to decide which category of share suits them best.

The existing 1984 Concessionary Car Ferry Fare Scheme will continue and concessionary bookings will be honoured for sailings up to 31st January, 1985.

European Ferries Plc

Registered Office: Enterprise House, Channel View Road, Dover, Kent CT17 9TJ. Registered in England No. 501725



National Westminster Bank PLC

NatWest announces that with effect from Thursday, 10th May, 1984, its Base Rate is increased from 8½% to 9% per annum.

The basic Deposit and Savings Account rates are increased from 5¼% to 5¾% per annum.

41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP

Midland Bank Interest Rates

Effective from 10th May 1984.

Base Rate

Increases by ¾% to 9¼% per annum.

Deposit Accounts

Interest paid on 7 day deposit accounts increases by ½% to 5¾% p.a.

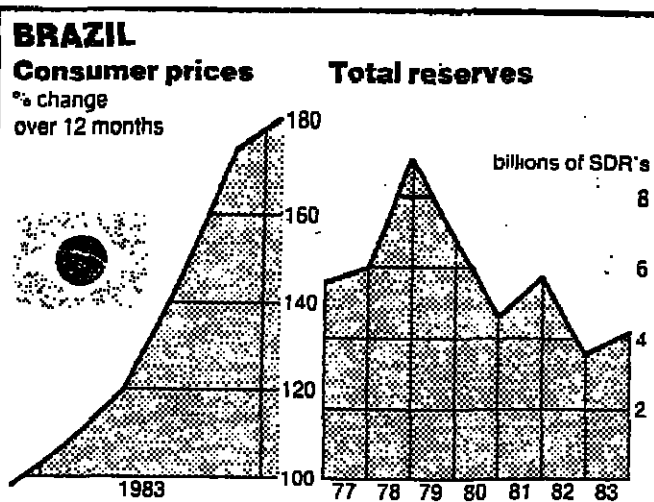


Midland Bank

Midland Bank plc, 27 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX

Patrick Knight from São Paulo fears a relapse for one of the IMF's sick nations

The hard inflationary facts behind Brazil's official optimism



Senator Camilo Penna, Minister of Industry and Trade

Shivers ran down the spines of international bankers when Senator Camilo Penna, Brazil's industry and commerce minister, broke ranks to join the growing chorus calling for Brazil's creditors to soften conditions of debt servicing, or risk a debt moratorium.

Senator Penna now admits that Brazil just cannot tolerate more recession. Optimistic noises are still coming from the trio in charge of the economy, led by the planning minister, Senator Delfim Netto. He points out, quite correctly, if increasing the rate of inflation, the Monetary Fund are being met. But many now think it is becoming politically impossible for Brazil to keep on course much longer.

Things look fairly good by the measures bankers use to judge. Brazil has built an impressive balance of trade surplus. Reserves are being built up, as a result of the renewed flow of loans, and money supply looks under control. But almost everything else is going wrong.

Most importantly, the key measure of inflation shows no sign of falling, other than briefly, from the 10 per cent a month, 200-plus a year level. Although the massive street demonstrations of the past few weeks have ostensibly been calling for direct elections for the presidency, it is the growing discontent with the economic situation that has enabled politicians to mobilize people of all classes to a degree never before seen in Brazil.

That discontent, above all is with inflation, which nobody, rich or poor, is able to protect themselves against fully. Average per capita income has shrunk by 12.6 per cent, more than an eighth, in the past four years, and by as much as 5.7 per cent last year alone. An independent study done by a Brookings Institute economist expects that another two years of economic decline, involving a 2 per cent fall in GNP this year and next, will be needed before any hope of a modest recovery can be hoped to start in 1987. The numbers employed in industry in São Paulo have shrunk back to the levels of 1973, when the city had a far smaller population. Retail sales there in the first quarter of this year were 25 per cent below those of the same period last year.

The Central Bank president, Senator Alfonso Pasin, optimistically repeats, month after month, that inflation will "definitely" start to fall in the next. But somehow it never does. According to the government's strategy, until inflation does yield, the economy just cannot be allowed to recover out of recession.

There is little evidence to suggest that this fall is in sight, or indeed will come at all, so long as present policies are followed.

The irony is that the very measures which have brought about the trade surplus themselves now boost inflation, and have united with the previous culprit, high government spending, in keeping the spiral going. Brazil's export earnings were up by almost a fifth in the first quarter of this year compared with those of last, while they earned 8.5 per cent more last year than in 1982. Imports are also being held down to below last year's very low figure, although this cannot be managed much longer.

This is being achieved by the government devaluing the cruzeiro by at least the rate of inflation, so that Brazil's manufactured goods have become more competitive abroad, illustrated by extra sales of cars to Scandinavia and the Middle

East, paper to Europe, and steel to the United States.

But this policy means that imports also cost more every time there is a devaluation, now almost weekly. The classic example of this is that oil derivatives have to go up by about 25 per cent every 10 weeks or so. This increase is immediately fed through to affect all other prices, particularly of food, public transport, and building materials.

Utility prices have also to be raised to keep pace, as the public sector has been Brazil's great foreign borrower, and state prices have to be raised constantly to pay off debt instalments.

It is now more attractive for farmers to export than to sell on the home market. Coupled with the removal of subsidies, that means food prices are rising faster than most, giving another boost to inflation. In a country where many spend three quarters of their incomes on food, the fact that prices have risen by at least 10 per cent each month over the past year has become so ingrained in people's minds, that they now expect them to do so, and behave accordingly.

Most shopkeepers put up prices in anticipation of rises and, because sales have fallen,

often above inflation, to try to maintain revenues.

All this might perhaps be an acceptable price to pay if it could be demonstrated that inroads were being made on the hundred billion dollars' debt, but even if all goes according to plan, and the hoped for \$9 billion trade surplus is achieved, Brazil will almost certainly need to borrow at least \$2 billion more this year, to meet commitments.

And there are many signs that the foreign trade success will be short-lived. In the first place, the figures have a suspicious look to them. Even the president of the Association of Exporters, Senator Laerte Setubal, has suggested that imports are running at a higher level than officially published, partly because so much is now being smuggled in, or paid for under the counter.

The extra exports are virtually all to one market, the United States, which bought 79 per cent more so far this year than last. Brazil's exports to the US should amount to almost 30 per cent of the total this year, compared with 22 per cent last, and 17 in 1980.

Exports to the rest of Latin America have slumped from \$18 billion in 1981, to less than

\$10 billion last year. Markets in Africa have disappeared, sales to the EEC, now threatening to tax Brazil's leading export earner, soya, as expensively produced home-grown oil seeds join the ranks of subsidized crops, remain static. Only the mini-boom in the United States is so far enabling Brazil to present a rosy picture to the bankers.

This success contains the seeds of its own destruction. Last year, for example, Brazil earned \$300m from steel exports to the US, but a 36 per cent duty has now been imposed, and earnings will be far less this year. It is useless for Brazil to argue that low prices this year are the result of devaluation, a virtuous act, whereas last year they were subsidized.

US industry calls it dumping, and is attempting to have similar measures taken against shoes, textiles, alcohol and orange juice.

Brazil was aided on the debt side by the halt to the dollar's strengthening the past few months. But as US interest rates rise again, adding \$700m to \$800m to the interest bill with each one point rise, so the dollar strengthens again, threatening Brazil's only new markets in the Middle and Far East.

The vain attempt at running ever faster to stay on the same spot is becoming politically harder to sustain.

Until just a few weeks ago, the odds seemed to be on the next president being the interior minister, Senator Mario Andreazza, or the former São Paulo governor, Senator Paulo Maluf, both committed to continuing present economic policies. But after five million Brazilians took to the streets, and the government only just blocked a Bill in Congress calling for the next president to be directly elected, it looks as if a compromise name will emerge. All those suggested, have called firmly for a moratorium.

Perhaps the IMF strategy might have been made to work more readily if only a few countries were in difficulties. But when 40 are all exhorted by IMF missions to adopt the same tactic simultaneously: import less and export more, the prospects become less rosy than many bankers and politicians in developed countries still assume. In an increasingly restive Brazil, the strategy may be running into the sand.

APPOINTMENTS

ICL names board of new group

ICL Group: Home-market operations are to be grouped into a new company, ICL (UK), chaired by Lord Soames. The managing director will be Mr Alan Rousell, until now director of ICL's UK division. Other board members are Mr P. L. Bonfield, deputy-chairman, Sir John Boyd, non-executive director, and Mr J. G. Lillywhite, executive director.

British Railways Board: Mr J. J. O'Brien has become a director.

C. E. Heath & Co (International): Mr C. N. Shaw becomes a director and Mr B. S. Palmer an assistant director.

Home Charm: Mr Ernest J. McCartney has joined the board.

BSR (UK) Group: Mr John Brougham has been appointed UK operations executive.

National Employers' Life Assurance Company: Mr J. A. Shaljean has joined the board.

Westminster and Country Properties: Mr R. J. S. Palmer has become a director.

Robson Rhodes: Mr Michael Hore, Mr Tony Stewley and Mr Rattan Engineer have been admitted to the partnership.

Lyle Shipping: Mr T. Noble resigns as managing director on May 31, but remains as a non-executive director. He will be succeeded by Mr J. N. Maclean, who will combine this role with his recent appointment as managing director of Lyle Motorship Company, the shipowning subsidiary. Also on May 31, Mr R. H. B. Gardiner, Mr F. M. Lo, Mr J. G. Marshall and Mr A. B. Wollings relinquish non-executive directorships of Lyle Shipping but remain executive directors of Lyle Motorship Company.

Sheraton Securities International: Mr Henry D. Clarke has been appointed chairman in succession to Mr Nicholas Tucker, who remains a director. Mr David Floyd-Walker has resigned as a director, and Mr John F. Trapp has joined the board.

Celestion Industries: Mr O. S. Preen and Mr J. A. N. Preen have been appointed non-executive directors.

Burco Dean: Mr M. J. T. Hutton has been appointed chairman, succeeding Mr Spencer Crookenden who has retired.

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Our Director of Legal and Business Affairs/Joint Managing Director, Polygram Music Video, needs an experienced shorthand/ audio secretary with WP knowledge.

This is an interesting and varied position requiring a good organiser with plenty of initiative, tact and discretion; the ability to communicate effectively at all levels; and someone used to working under pressure. Ideally you will be 25-30 years old and will have previous experience in the music or video industry.

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A London based trade association wishes to recruit a PR ASSISTANT who will be responsible for initiating and executing PR activities under the general supervision of the Chief Executive. Some PR experience, perhaps at Secretarial level, essential. Starting salary £7,250, to be reviewed after 6 months. Pension fund, LVs, Season ticket loan.

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The work includes investigating human rights in the Middle East, preparing material and advising on initiatives to be taken by Amnesty International, particularly in relation to prisoners of conscience, trial procedures and the treatment of prisoners.

Candidates should have sound knowledge of the Middle East, especially its political and legal background. The ability to seek out and evaluate information objectively, good political judgment and an ability to communicate well in English, both orally and in writing are essential, as is a knowledge of Arabic.

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The manager will be responsible for the 15 staff of the department and their duties, which embrace the full range of property management accounting functions, including the control of rental income, interest charges, expenses, management accounts for clients and completion statements. The successful candidate must have extensive experience of all activities in this field and property matters generally, be capable of supervising staff and liaising with clients. Relevant experience is considered to be of greater importance than formal accounting qualifications. He/she will form part of the senior management team of this leading firm and will have a personal secretary to assist with the workload.

The position carries a very attractive salary and other benefits, commensurate with the seniority of the post. Please apply in writing, in the first instance, to L. Scott at: Hacker Young Management Consultants, St. Albans House, 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5DH.

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The Society's offices in Portland Place, W1, are close to Oxford Circus, Regent's Park and Great Portland Street Station. The Society has around 22,000 members and approaching 100 local branches. A fuller job description is available with application form and should be sought immediately from WD Selection, 36 The Drive, Northwood, Middx. HA6 1HP.

Closing date for completed application forms to WD Selection is 31st May 1984.

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Computer Appointments

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With responsibility for all aspects of market and management of a centre, you will already have considerable management experience in the computer or business system market place.

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Apply in writing with full details of career to date to Brian Allmey, Managing Director, 712, Interface Network PLC, Bilton Road, Kingsland Industrial Park, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 0LJ. Telephone (0256) 6191.

General Appointments

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Match your career goals with our development programme in the informal surroundings of the Selfridge Hotel TODAY - nearest tube stations are Marble Arch and Bond Street.

For those of you unable to make the Open House ring 01-388 4222 Ext. 4210 or write with a full career history to: J. C. Haycock, Fluor (GB) Ltd., Euston Square, PO Box 309, London NW1 2DJ.

FLUOR

The P-E Consulting Group

(Park House, Egham, Surrey TW20 0HW)

PE

Advanced Manufacturing Technology

As a result of the continuing growth of P-E's work in advanced manufacturing technology, we are looking for several experienced consultants to augment our team of production engineers. Some successful candidates will be invited to work with us on a project-by-project associate basis, but we are also interested in identifying a small number of very senior candidates to join our permanent staff.

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- Electronic Assembly

Anyone applying must have a proven track record as an enthusiastic achiever (often in difficult circumstances) and at least five years' experience as a professional consultant. Candidates will have to meet our rigorous selection standards.

If you believe that you can convince us that you are able to offer the skills we seek, then please send details of your career to our Personnel Manager, Peter Catley, at Park House, Wick Road, Egham, Surrey TW20 0HW quoting reference AMT/3.

DIRECTOR

CADW Welsh Historic Monuments

£20,000+ negotiable

CADW Welsh Historic Monuments is a joint unit of the Welsh office and the Welsh Tourist Board being set up to bring fresh impetus to the presentation of ancient monuments in the Guardianship of the Secretary of State for Wales. The primary function will be the preservation for future generations of this priceless cultural inheritance. The successful applicant must be committed to the task of conservation but will need to see the ancient monuments as a major tourism resource for Wales.

The Director will be responsible for advising the Secretary of State on the exercise of the whole range of his/her statutory functions relating to ancient monuments and historic buildings in Wales, reporting to a steering committee chaired by the Secretary of State. He/she will be expected to play a leading role in the formulation of a development strategy to be endorsed by the Committee. There will be a considerable degree of executive freedom in implementing the approved strategy and managing day to day affairs, the headquarters will be at Cardiff.

Candidates, preferably aged 35-55 will ideally combine commitment to heritage conservation with a successful management record in a commercial environment. Leadership qualities and a capacity to innovate will be essential.

The appointment will be for a period of 3 years, with the possibility of extension or a permanent appointment. Relocation expenses may be payable. The Director will rank as grade 5 in the civil service. Remuneration and other conditions of service will, if appropriate, be negotiated with an eye to the successful applicants current emoluments and other relevant factors.

For further details and application form (to be returned by the 7th June 1984) write to Welsh Office, Personnel Management, 2a, Room 3-08, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NQ.

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YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS

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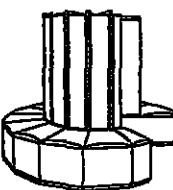
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Our aim is to have a restaurant in every community in the UK which is large enough to support one, therefore the McDonald's Property Department faces quite a challenge. Already we have over 100 outlets, and as our Real Estate Administrator you will ensure the efficient handling of all these properties.

Our department now requires an individual with administration capability to provide essential support to both the surveying and legal personnel within the department. You will maintain accurate property records in our role as both landlord and tenant and become involved with many aspects of property management and conveyancing in what is a new and potentially wide-ranging post. Legal experience would complement proven administration capability.

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If you think that's you, contact the Personnel Department, McDonald's Hamburgers Limited, 11-59 High Road, East Finchley, London N2 8AW. Telephone 01-883 8400.



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The position offers an attractive remuneration together with excellent fringe benefits and the opportunity exists for the successful applicant to join the Board at an early stage.

Candidates should submit full details of their career history and personal details to P.O. Box 2777 H The Times

Re-advertisement MEMBERSHIP SERVICES OFFICER

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The Association is urgently seeking a person with a high level of administrative ability to undertake a wide range of duties, including conference, committee work, office services and the development of new member services. Initial salary £9,000-£10,000 pa. Phone for application form and particulars 01-404 4787

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Manager & Policy Advisers CBI

Vacancies exist for a Manager and two Policy Advisers within the Pay and Manpower Division of our Social Affairs Directorate. The Division is responsible for the CBI's work in the fields of pay, manpower, pensions and social security.

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c.£16,000

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c.£13,000

One of the two Policy Advisers will work on CBI policies in the area of pay. The other will concentrate on manpower questions. Candidates for these posts must be experienced in the particular area of responsibility, and have the capacity to originate and execute research projects.

Applicants should send comprehensive CV's, stating present salaries to J. L. Clark, Confederation of British Industry, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU.

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For more information please telephone Edward Hallatt on 080 0545 between 7 pm and 8.30 pm on Thursday or Friday or between 9 am and 10.30 am on 486 8785 on Friday. Or write with brief CV to: Jane Gresham Ltd, Dainton House, 1A Upper Brighton Rd, Surbiton, Surrey.

HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development

A great though limited demand

For quite a long time after other English-speaking countries had become cautious about their immigration policy, South Africa was accepting almost all the whites with any kind of skill. This was because, just as oil was pegged to \$7 a barrel before the boom, gold was also on a fixed price of \$35 an ounce until 1970 before it soared to over \$800 in 1980 - to the great benefit of the economy.

Employment prospects there seem better than in many other places, largely because this powerful economic machine is controlled by a relatively small white population which must be oversupplied in the availability of skills and qualified people. A recent survey by the recruitment firm Manpower International shows that more than a third of employers, and particularly the larger companies, plan to increase their staff this year.

The demand is restricted to executive, professional and skilled white collar occupations, but pretty broadly based within that, as the present immigration figures from the UK show - more than 20,000 last year. South African employers seem to work closely with their government's London-based immigration officials. They recruit in this country, partly by press advertising and partly through head-hunters, but before applicants are vetted, before a

Godfrey Golzen looks at the need in South Africa for skilled workers

residence permit is granted. That can take up to three months, although the situation is somewhat easier for work permits, which usually go through in less than half that time.

Work permits have to be renewed annually, but they have one big advantage over residential ones. In the latter case, if you or male dependents with you are under 23, you (or they) will become liable for compulsory military service after you have been in the country for more than two years. This obviously is something to take into account if you have teenage sons, though there is the option at present of reverting to temporary residential status.

The positive side of permanent residence is that South Africa still has generous assisted passages for those accepted for such status, although in most cases, if employers want you at all, they are willing to pay the cost, and you cannot these days go to South Africa on spec. You have to have a firm offer of employment first.

If you are made a job offer, the

salary rate ought to be about 15 per cent above corresponding UK levels - and you will get quite a lot more for your money. The rate of exchange is about 2 Rand to the £, certainly the cost of living is lower (apart from housing, which costs about the same as in the UK) and the standards, giving South Africa's wonderful scenery and magnificent climate, much higher.

The drawbacks to all this are, of course, well-publicized. One concerns South Africa's long-term future and the fact that the country maintains strict exchange controls - some of the provisions of which are relaxed for new residents - indicates that there are plenty of people there who would probably leave if they could get their money out. The other is the price that has to be paid for maintaining the country's present racial stability.

The effects of censorship of the media, South Africa's isolation in everything from the arts to sport and the impact of apartheid, fall on everyone. It is unlikely that anyone not in sympathy with the prevailing views in South Africa - or their dependents - would be happy there for long. From a material point of view, however, there are few places where skilled and qualified people are likely to be better off.

● Next week: Australasia

The self-help way to survival

One of the more significant by-products of the recession has been the re-growth of community initiatives, in particular the creation of self-help groups started and run by unemployed people.

Through these, many without work have found a practical source of support against the feelings of isolation and helplessness that often accompany unemployment. From a relatively small core of groups which existed when the economic decline commenced in earnest, there has grown a mass of community-based organizations providing a big outlet for unemployed people's aspirations and views. The agency primarily concerned with promoting and supporting the movement, the British Unemployment Resource Network (BURN), has a mailing list of individuals running into thousands and BURN's project director, Andy Howell, estimates that there are 300 to 400 groups in active operation.

Small business

The exact nature of each group's activities varies enormously, but they generally include getting their members back into suitable employment, either on a full-time or part-time basis; examining and building up an alternative lifestyle, either as a matter of principle, or because there simply is not enough work in the region; or acting as a focus for the rights and

views of their members and/or unemployed people generally. Of the groups in existence, most are concerned primarily with getting their members back in work, particularly if they contain a large number of people with previous work experience.

Some are directly involved with specific job-creation or small-business initiatives. Others concentrate on providing their members with skills which will help them to find suitable employment with local employers. This includes sessions on developing interview skills, writing CVs or application forms, how to find vacancies and alternatives to full-time work: part-time or temporary work, self-employment, cooperatives and job-sharing.

Some self-help groups are fairly rudimentary and meet in members' living rooms. The most successful and established, however, are directly linked to local agencies, such as church parishes, community centres or adult education centres. There is generally a high concentration of groups in rural regions with a long tradition of community action, such as Cornwall and Devon, or in urban centres whose local authorities have a policy of supporting local initiatives such as Sheffield and Greater London.

If you want to find out whether a self-help group exists in your region, you should contact Mr Howell at the British Unemployment Resource Network. The network publishes a

journal with up-to-date information about the groups. It can also offer practical advice and support to anyone interested in starting a group of their own.

BURN now has an industrial development officer who travels to local groups around the country and who can provide lists of possible contacts to approach or possible sources of financial support. Contact the network, c/o Birmingham Settlement, 318 Summer Lane, Birmingham B19 3RL (021-359 6596).

Advising new groups

If you are a graduate, there is also the Sheffield Unemployed Graduates Association (SUGA). SUGA is in contact with the groups specifically aimed at unemployed degree-holders. Like BURN, it offers advice and support to new groups in the shape of an information package and on-the-spot help from a SUGA representative. It also produces a monthly newsletter, organizes social events and arranges talks on job-hunting. It is running a job-search course for graduates, and has access to the vacancy lists of 20 higher education establishments around the country.

● Information: Keven Bartlett, SUGA, 30 Northumberland Road, Sheffield S10 (0742 755148).

Michel Syrett

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Using advanced CMOS process rules and state-of-the-art technologies, you'll have design responsibility throughout all phases of the development of VLSI cells (ALU, ROM, RAM, PLA etc.) from definition through to installation on our VLSI Design Data Base. A graduate in Electronics, Electronic Engineering, or a related discipline, you should have at least 3 years' experience of working with digital systems and MOS integrated circuit design.

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Salaries are negotiable up to £14,000 p.a. (depending on the level and relevance of your experience and qualifications) and are accompanied by an attractive package of large company benefits, and excellent prospects for career progression.

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Applications are invited for the above post which falls vacant on 1 June 1984 with the return of the present holder to a senior post overseas. The Director of Commercial and Industrial Development Bureau spearheads the university's exploitation of ideas, inventions and commercial products for the benefit of British industry.

Applicants should have had wide marketing experience in industry and commerce and should possess a high level of entrepreneurial and management skills.

Salary will be within the Professorial range, minimum £17,275.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar and Secretary (Staffing), The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN, to whom applications (one copy), naming two referees, should be sent not later than 14 May, 1984. Quote ref: R22/A.

General Appointments

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In return we are offering an outstanding opportunity to join a well-established company and become involved in the world of financial planning, with excellent prospects.

If you think you have the right qualities to fulfil our needs, please telephone Kathy Foster on

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It is an acknowledged fact that in most careers hard work, overwhelming responsibility, initiative and ambition are only rewarded by insufficient income and poor prospects.

Quite simply, genuinely fresh stimulus in our profession is providing both the income and prospects for those who have already recognised the shortcomings in their previous position and made the change.

The two successful applicants will work in our city offices and will probably be over 25 years old.

To arrange a confidential interview, telephone:

Alistair McGinn on 01-283 1647

SUPERVISOR

Office Management System Up to £10,000

City Age 25-35

We are a medium sized firm of Chartered Accountants looking for a Supervisor for our Office Management System within our internal accounts department. Duties involve meeting data processing deadlines for WIP, supervising data processing staff; reconciling WIP through put; report generation and distribution; staff training and users support.

The successful applicant will have had some computer experience, combined with an accountancy background. Will be interested in systems management and will be able to deal with people of all levels within the firm.

We offer attractive working conditions in our modern offices, 2 minutes from Liverpool Street Station. Hours 9.15 to 5.15. Benefits include 4 weeks holiday, 30p LV's per day, Pension Scheme and season ticket loan.

If you have the necessary qualifications, please contact Joan Brady for an application form on 01-377 1000.

No Agencies.

Geologists/Geophysicists

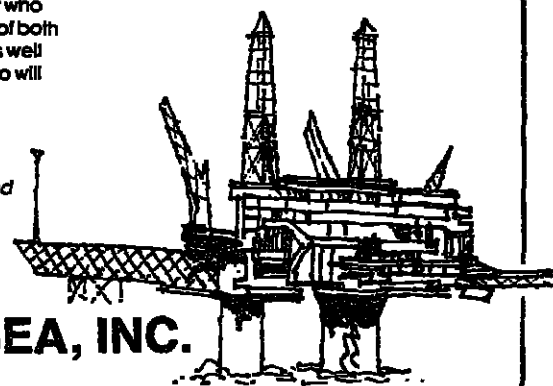
challenging opportunities in oil and gas exploration

Texas Eastern North Sea, Inc. is the UK subsidiary of a major US energy corporation with extensive worldwide exploration and production interests. Having been active in the North Sea since the early 1960s, Texas Eastern's current portfolio of properties includes working interests in seven producing oil and gas fields and several other known discoveries, all of which combine to make the company a significant owner of UK reserves; furthermore, this long-standing involvement has resulted in the accumulation of one of the largest North Sea seismic and well log data bases in the industry. In addition to acreage currently held under licence.

Texas Eastern is embarking upon the most aggressive exploration programme in the history of its North Sea involvement.

In conjunction with these efforts, Texas Eastern wishes to recruit additional geological and geophysical staff who will be involved in the evaluation of both potential acreage acquisitions as well as currently held licences and who will also play an active role in the presentation of exploration projects to senior management. Applicants should have three to five years relevant experience and hold a good Honours degree in geophysics/geology.

The Company offers an attractive remuneration package which includes a highly competitive salary, fully subsidised membership of BUPA and a non-contributory pension scheme.



TEXAS EASTERN NORTH SEA, INC.

To apply, please write to: Ms M. L. LONGFIELD
Fifth Floor, Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 5LE.

SPACE AND DEFENCE COMMUNICATIONS
TOTAL SYSTEMS CAPABILITY

Our client, a Division of a leading British company in the field of advanced electronic space and defence systems, specialises in the planning, design, manufacture and installation of civil and military communication networks. Increased emphasis is now being given to the complete system approach of "turn-key" project management, for national and international customers.

Successful application of this approach has led to an extensive expansion programme which calls for additional people of outstanding ability in the following fields:

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (Ref. No. DAB/308) - Responsible for new business development and client contact often at senior decision-making levels in government and the armed forces. Candidates should have a communications or engineering degree or background and the ability to carry total conviction at a senior level, both in terms of their personal status and their technical expertise. A background in the UK armed forces or MOD would be a distinct advantage.

SYSTEMS ENGINEERS (Ref. No. DAB/309) - Responsible for translating customer needs into the most appropriate complete communication systems. Candidates should be educated to at least degree standard, preferably in electronic engineering, and have had several years experience of active involvement in communications, specialising in an aspect of digital switching or transmission engineering which would ideally include satellite communications.

These positions call for people of wide experience and maturity probably aged at least 35, and compensation packages will take full account of the successful candidates' abilities and background.

Initially please write in confidence, quoting the above reference numbers, enclosing full CV and indicating any companies to which the information should not be made available, to:

EINSTEIN ASSOCIATES

Einstein Associates Ltd. Samuel House St Albans Street London SW1Y 4SQ. 01-930 4545.

LASER DESIGN ENGINEERS (2)

To work in the Advertising and Entertainment industry with at least 3 years experience in Digital and Analog design.

Salary £12,000 negotiable, dependent upon experience.

Please telephone

01-741 5747

University Appointments appear every Monday

COMPANY MEETING NOTICES

ROUNCO

ROUNCO N.V. hereby give notice that the AGM of the company will be held on Monday 15th May 1984 at 10.00 a.m. at the ROUNCO Building, 10 Old Broad Street, London EC2A 3JF.

Holders are, therefore, requested to surrender their existing shares to the company by 10.00 a.m. on Monday 15th May 1984, accompanied by a duly completed Exchange Form, to:

National Westminster Bank PLC, Stock Office Services 3rd Floor (Counters), 30 Old Broad Street, London EC2A 3JF.

For business days, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and from which Exchange Forms may be obtained.

The new Bonds will be available in denominations of £1, 100 and £1,000.

Date: 10th May 1984.

NOTICE OF THE PARBRIDGE SOCIETY (INCORPORATED)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the members of the above-named Society will be held on Monday 15th May 1984 at 7.30 p.m. at the ParbrIDGE Club, 10 Old Broad Street, London EC2A 3JF.

The Council of the Society consists of: Mrs Caroline McGee, Secretary, 119/120 N.E. Wing, Burn House, Aldwych, London WC2B 4PY.

Software Product Manager

Corby, Northants.
Salary: Negotiable (over 15K) up to 20K

Job Description

Responsible for all aspects of Software products for Commodore computers. Manager of department of 14 staff. Job requires working closely with marketing and sales managers to ensure that hardware is supported with software which enhances its market positioning. This involves assessing the marketplace and competition locating suitable software houses/individuals who can provide it to spec and then negotiating suitable terms and contracts. (No programming done in-house all third-party contracts.) The individual is responsible for ensuring that this software reaches a high commercial standard which often involves considerable creative input. Types of software include business, utilities, education and games for business micros but principally for the consumer (home computer) marketplace.

Qualifications

Strong leadership and creative abilities. Knowledge of the home computer marketplace. Good communication skills, both written and verbal. Proven supervision of professional team. Strong negotiator, age - open but probably over 30. Male or female.

This is NOT a programmers job, although some knowledge of programming/programming techniques might be an asset.

Commodore

675 Ajax Avenue Slough Berkshire SL1 4BG

To advertise in

The Times or The Sunday Times

please telephone 01-837 3311 or 3333

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

- BBC 1**
- 00.00 **Celestial AM.**
- 03.00 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Selma Scott. News from Debbie Rix at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; television preview at 6.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.15 and 8.15; horoscopes at 8.30; medical matters and culinary hints between 8.30 and 9.00.
- 06.00 **The French Way.** A profile of the French town of Villefranche de Rouergue (r). 8.30 **Celestial AM.**
- 09.00 **News After News.** Richard Williams and Frances Coverdale. The weather prospects come from Jim Bacon. 12.57 **Regional News** (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.
- 1.00 **Pebble Hiss at One** includes the last of Brian Auger and Trinity's series on pets and a song from Labi Siffre. 1.45 **Fingerbobs.** A See-Saw programme for the very young (r).
- 2.00 **Racing from Chester** introduced by Julian Wilson. Live coverage of four races: The Sceptre Maiden Fillies Stakes (2.15); the Ormonde Stakes (2.45); the Ladbrokes Herts Handicap (3.15); and the Doncaster Stakes (3.45). The commentators are Peter O'Sullivan, Jimmy Lintley and John Hamner. 5.55 **Regional News** (London and SE only).
- 5.55 **Play School.** Presented by Brian Jameson. 4.20 **The Hunter.** Cartoon series. 4.25 **Jugglers.** Quizword game presented by Adrian Healey. 4.40 **Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.** Part six of the 26-episode series based on the stories of Mark Twain (r).
- 5.05 **John Craven's Newsworld.** 5.10 **Blue Peter.** Simon Groom reports from Cornwall where the people of Looe have paid homage to their best known son - Richard Trevithick, the inventor of the steam engine. 5.30 **Sixty Minutes** begins with news from Mohr Stuart followed by the weather at 5.45; ending with news headlines at 6.38.
- 6.40 **Pot the Question.** The first in a new series in which two teams of sports stars and show-business celebrities answer general knowledge questions while playing a frame of snooker. The resident captains are Denis Law and Patrick Mower.
- 7.10 **Tomorrow's World** includes items on the latest gadgetry for home computers; and why we need vitamin E.
- 7.35 **Top of the Pops** introduced by John Peel and David Jensen.
- 8.05 **Portage.** Fletcher's first day at Stoke prison where he shares a cell with the naive Barker. Starring Ronnie Barker and the late Richard Briers (r).
- 8.35 **We Got It Made.** American comedy series.
- 9.00 **News** with John Humphrys.
- 9.25 **Missing from Home.** The final part of the drama serial and the people of Looe welcome Richard to the town where he was born. The resident captain is Denis Law and Patrick Mower.
- 10.15 **Question Time.** Sir Robin Day's panel tonight consists of Susan Crossland, Lord Ezra, David Howell, MP, and Chris Mullin.
- 11.15 **Electric Blue.** Ian McEwan-Davis inspects the latest electronic methods of the New York Times newspaper.
- 11.40 **News** headlines and weather.

tv-am

8.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. News from Gordon Honeycombe at 8.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 8.35 and 7.35; exercise at 8.45 and 8.15; the day's anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.15; Popeye cartoon at 7.25; guest of the day, Alan Stanger at 7.40; pop video at 7.55; Bill Simpson's star turn at 8.15; astrology at 8.20; Paul Gambaccini's film review at 8.35; and a discussion about the book *Premature Babies* at 8.55.

TV/LONDON

8.25 **Thames news headlines** 9.30 **For Schools:** Buying tickets at a railway station 9.42 **The natural history of Derbyshire Dale** 9.58 **Ordinal numbers** 10.11 **Domestic tensions** that affect children 10.28 **Coping with homelessness** 10.50 **Housing, employment and amenities in Kirby** 11.08 **Learning to read with Basil Brush** 11.22 **A day on a farm** as summer approaches 11.40 **The 15th and 16th centuries** 11.55 **Wattson Wattson.** Cartoon series for the very young. 12.00 **Benney goes to the fair** with the Mose family. 12.10 **Get Up and Go!** with Beryl Reid (r). 12.30 **The Stillwaters.**

1.00 **News.** 1.20 **Thames news.** 1.30 **A play.** A look at the work of two artists: Amanda Fielding and Walter Kershaw. 2.00 **Take the High Road.**

2.30 **Strangers.** Scottish Yard drama series starring Don Henderson as the poetical policeman, this week solving a series of murders that begin in Moscow and end in London (r). 3.30 **Sons and Daughters.**

4.00 **Benny.** A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 **Aubrey Cartoons** adventures of an eccentric inventor. 4.20 **Madabout.** Matthew Kelly's topic today is birds. 4.45 **What's Happening!** Topical general knowledge quiz between local radio stations. 5.15 **The Young Doctors.**

5.45 **News.** 6.00 **Thames news**

6.30 **Thames Sport** includes an on-air cricket benefits match. 7.00 **Who's the Winner?** A new series presented by Bernie Winters in which the panel, consisting of Barbara Woodhouse, Matthew Kelly, Su Pollard and Sarah Houghton, question children to see if they can discover the identity of their celebrity parent.

7.30 **The Streets of San Francisco.** Karl Malden stars as the West Coast policeman who, tonight, is on the trail of a young man on the run after a killing, who takes a juvenile judge hostage (r).

8.30 **Airline.** Part one of the one-episode drama about two men demobbed from wartime service in the RAF who try to build up their own civilian careers. Starring Ray Madson and Anthony Valentine (r).

9.30 **TV Eye.** Test-tube babies: how far should the doctors go? A discussion on the controversy surrounding test-tube babies and artificial insemination.

10.00 **News** followed by Thames news headlines

10.30 **Hill Street Blues.** Frantically-paced police precinct series starring Daniel J Travanti as the harassed Captain Furillo

11.30 **My Brother's Keeper.** The story of an Enfield, Middlesex, group who provide a respite for families of severely handicapped children

12.00 **Newstart.** American comedy series with Daniel J Travanti making his second appearance of the evening

12.25 **Night Thoughts** from Deaconess Helen Starns

CHOICE

of a new-born baby at the hands of a medical orderly. One can only marvel at man's determination to overcome the most basic treatment meted out by those who can only, politely, be called sadists. A compelling programme but not one to be seen by those of a squeamish disposition

● In complete contrast to the harrowing *Survive* programme is the welcome repeat of William Douglas Home's romantic comedy, *THE KINGFISHER* (Channel 4 9.30pm). Anglia's production, first seen on ITV 17 months ago, casts Rex Harrison in only his third performance on British television, as a distinguished literary knight trying to re-kindle the first love, Evelyn, played with infectious charm by Wendy Hiller.

Evelyn is now widowed and the backlist Sir Cecil comes a-courting much to the chagrin of the old retainer. Hawkins, played with delicious malice by Cyril Cusack, who tries to sabotage the renaissance romance in any way possible. Three delightful performances plus picturesque scenery adds up to 90 minutes of splendid escapism

● Two other first class performances can be seen tonight in *Louis Malle's* *THE ATLANTIC CITY*, having its first airing on British television (BBC 2 9.00pm). Both Burt Lancaster and Susan Sarandon received Oscar nominations for their portrayal of an aging petty crook and a young barmaid with whom he is having an affair. This unusual love story is set within a tale of drug-dealing, complicated by vengeful mobsters

Radio 2

4.00pm Bill Rennell's 5.30 Ray Moore's 7.30 Terry Wogan. Inc. 8.25 Racing Bulletin. 10.00 Russel's Harry 12.00pm Steve Jones' Inc. 1.05; 2.02 Sport. 2.05 Gloria Hunniford. Inc. 2.45 Racing from Chester. The Chrono. 3.00 Steve Jones' 3.15 3.30 Russel's Harry 3.45 The Way. Inc. 4.25 Racing from Chester. The Dees. 4.02 Sport. 4.05 David Hamilton. Inc. 4.45 Sport. 5.05 5.08 Daily. Inc. 5.45 Sport. 5.50 Classified Results (only). 7.30 Cricket Scores. 8.00 Wally Whynott. With Country Concert and Country Club. 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.00 The News. 10.05 Huddines. Roy Hudd leads at the news with Chris Emmett and June Whitfield. 10.30 Star Sound Extra with Roy Hudd. 11.00 A. Robinson with Roy Hudd (starts from midnight). 11.00am Charles Norton presents Nightlife. 3.00-4.00 Marching and Waltz!

Radio 3

6.55 **Weather.** 7.00 **News** 7.05 **Morning Concert:** Mussorgsky's *Modestly* by Peter Dinklage. Rachmaninov's *Paganini* by David Gifford. 8.00 **Stravinsky's Pulcinella.** 8.00 **News.** 8.05 **Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 2.** Handel's *Wag. L. Angel* (Richard Lewis, ten). Brahms's *Serenade No. 2* in A. 9.00 **News.** 9.05 **This Week's Composer:** Strauss. *Spring* Quartet. No. 1. (Sarka, Mead, Vlast 3 and 4). 10.00 **Water and Wurlander.** Mozart's *Violin Concerto*. 10.05 **Francis Poulenc's *Symphony No. 8*. (Unfinished, Morin, Berlin). 11.00 **Alfreda Hodgson (contralto).** Songs by Schubert, Ireland, Moeran. 11.45 **Northern Sinfonia.** Conducted by George Malcolm (harpsichord). Works by Handel, Lennox, Bartok, Hindemith, Haydn, Mozart (Symphony No. 40). 1.00 **News.** 1.05 **Bristol Lunchtime Concert.** Direct from St George's. Brindley, Works by Handel, Fagundes, Richard Rodney Bennett, Chopin. 1.45 **Richard Rodney Bennett's *Concerto for Violin and Piano*. 2.00 **Fifty Years of Glyndebourne.** First of six festival recordings: Mozart's *Idomeneo*; Richard Lewis (Idomeneo), Leopold Simonsen (Idomeneo), Sir John Pritchard (Idomeneo). Interval readings at 2.50 and 3.35 are followed by Acts 2 and 3. Recorded in 1956. 4.55 **News** 5.00 **Mainly for Pleasure.** Presented by Michael Berkeley. 5.30 **Barndale.** Brighouse and Fairbank Band, conducted by James Brighouse. 7.00 **Brahms.** Evelyn Brancati (Piano) plays Paganini Vars. 1 and 2. 7.30 **London Philharmonic Orchestra.** Klaus Tennstedt conducts, direct from the Royal Festival Hall. Walton's *Concerto Overture*. Haydn's *Concerto in C* (Hilary Smith). 8.05 **Poetry of Lionel Johnson.** Read by Ronald Pickup. 8.25 **London Philharmonic Concert:** part two. Bruckner's *Symphony No. 7*.****

Radio 1

5.00am Adrian John. 7.00 Mike Reid. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Gary Davies, including 12.30 *Top of the Pops*. 1.00pm Steve Wright. 2.30 Peter Dinklage. 3.00 *Top of the Pops*. 4.00 David Jensen. 5.00 *Top of the Pops*. 6.00 *Top of the Pops*. 7.00 *Top of the Pops*. 8.00 *Top of the Pops*. 9.00 *Top of the Pops*. 10.00 *Top of the Pops*. 11.00 *Top of the Pops*. 12.00 *Top of the Pops*. 1.00 *Top of the Pops*. 2.00 *Top of the Pops*. 3.00 *Top of the Pops*. 4.00 *Top of the Pops*. 5.00 *Top of the Pops*. 6.00 *Top of the Pops*. 7.00 *Top of the Pops*. 8.00 *Top of the Pops*. 9.00 *Top of the Pops*. 10.00 *Top of the Pops*. 11.00 *Top of the Pops*. 12.00 *Top of the Pops*. 1.00 *Top of the Pops*. 2.00 *Top of the Pops*. 3.00 *Top of the Pops*. 4.00 *Top of the Pops*. 5.00 *Top of the Pops*. 6.00 *Top of the Pops*. 7.00 *Top of the Pops*. 8.00 *Top of the Pops*. 9.00 *Top of the Pops*. 10.00 *Top of the Pops*. 11.00 *Top of the Pops*. 12.00 *Top of the Pops*. 1.00 *Top of the Pops*. 2.00 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